Cry, The Beloved Country
Final Essay

We've been reading Cry the Beloved Country and debating some of the issues raised in the book. Now is your chance to put some of those ideas and skills to use by choosing a character (from the list below) and making a case for whether that character acted morally or not based on their particular experience and situation. . . The characters that you can choose from are:

- Steven Kumalo
- Absalom
- Msimangu
- John Kumalo
- Gertrude
- Mr. Jarvis

You should already have a list of evidence from the book regarding each of these characters’ lives that you have collected as you read the novel (See your Character Sketch worksheet).

Ideas to think about when writing your essay:
- What are the morals that his or her society hold as most important?
- Did the character break any laws? Was the character’s behavior immoral even if he or she didn’t break any laws?
- Do the character’s circumstances influence his or her behavior? How?
- Does the character work against his or her circumstances or does he or she let their circumstances dictate their life?

Your paper should be well organized, including an attention grabber at the beginning and a strong thesis statement establishing your stance. The body of your essay should solidly argue your opinion of the character and should be supported by evidence from the book (quotes from other applicable sources are highly recommended as well). The conclusion should give a sense of satisfactory closure on the subject. Use the rhetoric tools of persuasion that were covered in class to enhance your argument.

Length and format:
Your paper should be 3-4 pages in length. The final draft needs to be typed, double spaced, one inch margins with a works cited page (which is not included in the total length of your paper). Everything must be in MLA format.

Due dates:
- **Outline** (Your argument and three evidences to support it) _____________
- **Rough draft** due for Peer editing _____________
- **Final draft** due with revisions from peer editing _____________

Hints:
- Take a stand and defend it.
- Specific examples from the life of the character will add validity to your argument.
- Relevant information from other viable sources would increase your authority and expertise on the subject.

Grading:
You will be graded based on **Voice, Ideas, Organization and Conventions** from the six traits rubric handed out in class.

Veronica Wright, 2008
# Character Sketch

As you read through *Cry, The Beloved Country* you will be keeping a character log. Whenever you come across a passage, sentence or conversation that reveals something about one of the main characters listed below you will write down the page number, what the passage is, and what you feel the passage says about the person's character.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Character</th>
<th>Page Number</th>
<th>What type of passage is it? (Description, Dialog, Action)</th>
<th>What does it say about the character of the person?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stephen Kumalo</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Kumalo</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Absalom Kumalo</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gertrude Kumalo</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Msimangu</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

| Mr. Jarvis     |   |   |
Rubric for Essay:

Six Traits:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trait</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Voice</td>
<td>25 pts</td>
<td>• Is interesting, engaging and informed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Effectively uses one or more of the persuasive rhetorical tools covered in class (ethos, pathos, logos)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ideas</td>
<td>25 pts</td>
<td>• Contains a strong thesis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Contains an argument that takes a strong stance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Reflects research and includes references to the novel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organization</td>
<td>20 pts</td>
<td>• Has an solid introduction with an adequate attention grabber</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Has a solid conclusion that makes a final appeal to the argument</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Is well thought out and clearly organized</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Contains well chosen evidence that supports the argument</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conventions</td>
<td>15 pts</td>
<td>• Has correct spelling, grammar and punctuation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Contains correct MLA citations</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Final Packet should include:

- **Outline** (5 pts):
- **Character Sketch Worksheet** (10 pts):
- **Rough Draft** (10 pts):
- **Peer Editing Paper** (10 pts):
  - Shows thoughtful **revision** from first draft and final (5 pts):
- **Final Draft** (60 pts):
Editor: Read the essay all the way through first and then answer the following questions:

1. Ideas:
   a. What is the stance that the author is arguing in the paper?
   b. Is the author successful in arguing their point? Why or why not?
   c. What does the author use to support their view? Do they have enough details and evidence to support their view?

2. Organization:
   a. Is the introduction interesting? Does the introduction grab your attention?
   b. Does the conclusion make a final appeal to the argument? Does it leave you feeling satisfied?
   c. Does the paper follow a logical pattern?

3. Voice:
   a. Put a “V” on the paper where the author’s voice shows through.
   b. How do you know that the author feels strongly about this topic? I can tell because…
   c. What rhetorical tools does the author use? Is it effective? Why or Why not?

4. Conventions:
   a. Are the MLA citations correct?
   b. Circle one grammar mistake, i.e. spelling, punctuation (commas, periods, quotation marks)

5. Which trait is the strongest in this paper? Why?

6. Which trait needs the most work? What could the writer do to improve this trait?

Author: Please score the editor on the helpfulness of his/her comments to your revision:
10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

What three revisions will you make based on the editor’s comments?

Veronica Wright, 2008