“Once Upon a Time”
1. Are there villains or heroes in this story? What are the larger forces in conflict and what does the ending of the story tell us about this conflict?
2. What does the fairy tale format lend to the reading? Relate elements of this format to the theme of the story.

“The Yellow Wall Paper”
1. How does the mood of the narrator change as the story progresses? What is the relationship between changes in her mental condition and changes in the setting?
2. Show how both the physical aspects of the story—the garden, the house, the room, etc. and other aspects of the setting are important in understanding the theme.

“Gryphon”
1. In classical mythology a gryphon (also spelled griffin) is a monster that has the head and wings of an eagle and the body of a lion. Why is this story called “Gryphon”?
2. Describe Miss Ferenczi’s physical appearance, including her personal belongings. Why is her appearance important to the story? How does it change as the story progresses and what do these changes suggest?
3. Are all of Miss Ferenczi’s “substitute facts” lies, or is there some truth is what she says? Is she correct when she says that substitute facts cannot hurt anyone? What about the facts we are taught in school?

‘The Cask of the Amontillado”
1. Is Montresor a reliable narrator? If not, what makes you distrust his version of events?
2. What is Montresor’s concept of honor? Is Montresor’s concept of personal honor consistent or inconsistent with the values of contemporary American society? How relevant are the story’s ideas about revenge and guilt to our society? Explain.
3. Why does Montresor tell his story fifty years after the murder? To whom do you think he might be telling his story? What does this tell you about the narrator?

“A Clean, Well-lighted Place”
1. How are the story’s style and tone suited to its setting? To its characters?
2. Does the story present the human condition in optimistic or pessimistic terms? In what sense are the story’s style and tone well suited to this worldview?
3. The café is described as “clean” and “pleasant.” Why is this description a key element of the story?

“The Jilting of Granny Weatherall”
1. If you were to put this story into one of the chapter titles (plot, character, setting, symbolism, etc.), which of them would you choose? Support your choice.
2. Support the idea that the jilting of Granny was a pivotal event in her life. How can you explain an event that happened sixty years ago having such an effect on a person?
3. If you were one of Granny’s children and found her letters to George, what do you suppose your reaction to them would be? Support your perspective from the story.

General question: Show how any literary element in any story of your choice is used by the author as a vehicle for drawing the reader to the theme of the story.