

Ambai Extra-Credit Essay

Download the story “In a Forest, a Deer” from my school web-site (in the supplemental resources for Ambai’s “Yellow Fish”).

Write an essay in which you explain how the author uses such literary devices as narrative voice, point of view, figurative language, and characterization to provide an insight into the society that the story’s characters inhabit. If you cannot figure out what Ambai is communicating about the society depicted in the story, don’t bother writing the essay.

There are a few things to notice about the story: first, the narrator is at least partially unreliable (even though it is an adult narrator, the point of view remains that of the child who lived through the events that the narrator is recollecting, so that the narrator’s understanding of the significance of things is sometimes incomplete); second, pay especial attention to the way that Ambai uses imagery in the story to subtly alter the tone at key points in the story to help the reader better understand what the author is trying to communicate; and third, the role of cultural narratives is addressed through the way that Ambai uses the oral tradition as a narrative device.

This extra-credit assignment is due October 12, and will not be accepted after that point. The grade will replace two lower grades that are not zeroes.

