

English 1302
Questions to Consider

“The Paper Menagerie”
Ken Liu

Choose one of the following questions to answer and use the notes section on the back of this page to outline your ideas.

1. With many of our stories, we have talked about the moment of grace. What is the moment of grace in this story and what does it reveal about circumstance or humanity?
2. In what ways is the character’s major trait a strength or a weakness? As the story progresses, how does the trait affect the outcome?
3. What do you learn about the main character from his actions or speeches or from the actions or speeches about him? What does this show you about the human condition, circumstance, or the theme of the work?
4. This story is told looking back on the past. How does this character feel about his behavior growing up? How can you tell, and what does it show about the process of accepting our families and ourselves?
5. How does the pace of the story—the slowness or quickness of actions and events—create a specific feel or effect?
6. What are the various tones of the story, and how does the movement from one tone to the next create a specific feeling or effect?
7. Paper is a clear symbol in this story. What does it represent, and what is the underlying message in that connection?

Citation Information

This was published in the monthly print magazine *Fantasy and Science Fiction*. It was published in the March/April issue in 2011. You will find the page numbers on the copy of the story. You will need to include page number in-text citations in your essay, and a work cited page at the end. Cite this in MLA style.

<p>Your answer to the question you're using from the handout. Write it out in a clear and complete sentence that clearly relates to the question. Include the author's name and the story's title.</p>		
<p>Quote or moment which supports your answer. Write it out in a sentence and cite correctly.</p>	<p>How that supports your thesis idea. Explain in how this connects to your main point in a sentence or two.</p>	
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<p>Concluding ideas: One or two sentence summary of your points, and then discussion of what this shows about the specific question, element you looked at, or what it shows about the human experience.</p>		