ENGLISH 1B — STORIES WE’VE READ
A Listing By Possible Themes, Motifs, Threads, Etc.

Note: This is by no means an exhaustive list of themes, etc. or of the works that could be grouped under one heading – it’s brainstorming transcribed, and my hope is that it’ll give you some direction. If I inadvertently included any works we are not reading this term, please disregard them.

“Sister Godzilla,” by Louise Erdrich (excerpted from The Plague of Doves), handout
"Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?" by Joyce Carol Oates p. 551
"Hills Like White Elephants," by Ernest Hemingway p. 145
“A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings, by Gabriel Garcia-Marquez p. 638
"Sleepover," by Bonnie Jo Campbell, p. 152
"The Third and Final Continent," by Jhumpa Lahiri handout
“I Stand Here Ironing,” by Tillie Olsen p. 330
“A Worn Path,” by Eudora Welty p. 502
“Bernice Bobs Her Hair,” by F. Scott Fitzgerald, handout
“The Birthmark,” by Nathaniel Hawthorne, handout
“The Jilting of Granny Weatherall,” by Katherine Anne Porter p. 673
“Two Kinds,” by Amy Tan p. 687
"The Cask of Amontillado," by Edgar Allan Poe p. 360
"A Good Man Is Hard to Find," by Flannery O’Connor p. 405
“The Lottery,” by Shirley Jackson p. 467
“Young Goodman Brown,” by Nathaniel Hawthorne p. 486
“The Gift of the Magi," by O. Henry, handout
“A Rose for Emily,” by William Faulkner, p. 244
“The Story of an Hour,” by Kate Chopin, p. 223
“The Secret Lion,” by Alberto Alvaro Rios, p. 200

Extra Credit (optional readings)

"Cat in the Rain" by Hemingway, handout
“Like A Winding Sheet,” by Ann Petry, handout
“The End of Something," by Hemingway, handout
“A Temporary Matter," by Lahiri, handout
“Battle Royale,” p. 319, by Ralph Ellison
POSSIBLE THEMES OR MOTIFS:

How Families Shape Our Identity; Parent-Child Relationships; The Strength Of Family Love

"Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?"
“The Jilting of Granny Weatherall,”
“A Worn Path,”
"Two Kinds,"
“I Stand Here Ironing,”
"The Third and Final Continent,"
“The Gift of the Magi,” by O. Henry,
"A Good Man Is Hard to Find,” by Flannery O’Connor
“Bernice Bobs Her Hair,” by F. Scott Fitzgerald,

Love/Love Relationships – What Makes Them End Or Last?
Defining “Genuine Love” Vs. Some Kind Of “False” Love Or Infatuation (Something Masquerading As “Love”)

“Young Goodman Brown,”
"Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?"
“The Jilting of Granny Weatherall,”
"The Third and Final Continent,"
"Hills Like White Elephants,”
“The Gift of the Magi,”
“Bernice Bobs Her Hair,”
“The Birthmark,"
“Sleep-over"
“The Story of an Hour"
“Sister Godzilla”

Dehumanization; Society Vs. The Individual

“Young Goodman Brown”
“The Lottery,”
"Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?"
“A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings,”
"The Cask of Amontillado,"
“The Jilting of Granny Weatherall,”
“A Worn Path,”
"Hills Like White Elephants,”
“Sleep-over”
“The Secret Lion”
"Battle Royale,"
“Bernice Bobs Her Hair,”
“The Birthmark,”
“A Good Man Is Hard to Find,”
“Sister Godzilla”

**The Search For Self; The Pain Of Growing Up; Rites Of Passage**

“Young Goodman Brown,”
“The Lottery,"
"Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?"
"Two Kinds,"
“ I Stand Here Ironing,”
"The Secret Lion"
“A Good Man Is Hard to Find,"
“Bernice Bobs Her Hair,"
"Sister Godzilla,"

**Prejudice/Discrimination; The Detrimental Effects Of Prejudice**

“Young Goodman Brown,”
“Bernice Bobs Her Hair,”
"The Secret Lion”
“The Birthmark,”
"A Good Man Is Hard to Find,”
“A Worn Path,”
“A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings,
“Battle Royale”
“Sister Godzilla”

**Revenge Or The Idea Of Someone Getting His Or Her “Just Desserts”**

"A Temporary Matter”
“The Lottery”
"The Cask of Amontillado,"
“Bernice Bobs Her Hair,”
"A Good Man Is Hard to Find,”
“The Story of an Hour”
Appearance Vs. Reality

"Young Goodman Brown,"
"Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?"
“A Temporary Matter”
“A Worn Path,”
"The Third and Final Continent,"
"Happy Endings”
“Cat in the Rain”
“The Birthmark,"
"A Good Man Is Hard to Find,"
“Battle Royale”
“Sister Godzilla”

Stories In Which A Character’s Perception Of Either Himself, Others, Or The World Itself Is Changed

“Bernice Bobs Her Hair,”
"The End of Something"
“The Birthmark,”
"A Good Man Is Hard to Find,"
"Sister Godzilla”
“Young Goodman Brown,”
“The Lottery,”
"Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?"
"The Secret Lion"
“The Story of an Hour”
“The Jilting of Granny Weatherall,”
"Two Kinds,"
"The Third and Final Continent,"
“Sleep-over”
“A Temporary Matter”
“Battle Royale”

Stories Which Involve An Epiphany Of Some Sort On The Part Of Someone

“Cat in the Rain"
“Bernice Bobs Her Hair,”
“The Birthmark,”
"A Good Man Is Hard to Find,"
"Young Goodman Brown,"
"Battle Royale"
"Sister Godzilla"

**Stories Which Involve Social Constraints Or Restrictions Upon Women**

"Young Goodman Brown,"
"The Jilting of Granny Weatherall"
"A Worn Path,"
"Two Kinds,"
"I Stand Here Ironing,"
"The Third and Final Continent,"
"The Story of an Hour,"
"Hills Like White Elephants,"
"Bernice Bobs Her Hair,"
"Cat in the Rain"
"The Birthmark,"
"A Good Man Is Hard to Find,"
"Happy Endings"
"A Temporary Matter"
"Sister Godzilla"

**Stories In Which Women Are Defined, Define Themselves, Or Allow Themselves To Be Defined By Physical Appearance (Or In Which Women Want To Be Defined By Something Other Than Appearance)**

"Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?"
"The Third and Final Continent,"
"Cat in the Rain"
"Bernice Bobs Her Hair,"
"A Temporary Matter"
"The Birthmark"
"A Good Man Is Hard to Find,"
"Happy Endings"
"Battle Royale"
"Sister Godzilla"
**Stories Which Are Reminiscent Of Or Share Some Elements With Fairy Tales And/Or Magical Realism**

“Young Goodman Brown,”
“A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings, by Gabriel Garcia-Marquez
“The Birthmark”
“The Cask of Amontillado” (maybe)
“A Rose for Emily” (maybe)

**Stories Which Deal In Some Way With The Power Of The Past Or Of Tradition Or The Role Of Tradition In Our Lives**

“The Lottery,”
“A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings,
“The Jilting of Granny Weatherall,”
"Two Kinds,"
"A Good Man Is Hard to Find,"
"The Third and Final Continent,"
“A Temporary Matter”

**Stories Involving The Plight Of/Role Of The Elderly In Our Society**

"The Third and Final Continent,"
“A Rose for Emily,”
“A Worn Path,”
“The Jilting of Granny Weatherall,”
"A Good Man Is Hard to Find,"
“A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings”

**Stories Involving Friendship Or The Need For Friendship/Human Connection**

"The End of Something"
"The Third and Final Continent,"
"Cat in the Rain"
"The Cask of Amontillado,"
"Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?"
“Sleep-over”
“Sister Godzilla”
Stories Dealing With Forgiveness, Guilt, Remorse, Remorselessness

"The Lottery,"
"The Jilting of Granny Weatherall,"
"Two Kinds,"
"I Stand Here Ironing,"
"Young Goodman Brown,"
"The Cask of Amontillado,"
"Bernice Bobs Her Hair,"
"The Birthmark,"
"A Good Man Is Hard to Find,"
"Hills Like White Elephants,"
"The Story of an Hour"
"Sister Godzilla"
"Battle Royale"

Desire For Acceptance/Need To Fit In/Yearning For Unconditional Love

"Battle Royale,"
"Cat in the Rain"
"I Stand Here Ironing,"
"The Lottery,"
"The Jilting of Granny Weatherall,"
"Two Kinds,"
"Hills Like White Elephants,"
"Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?"
"The Secret Lion"
"A Temporary Matter"
"The Third and Final Continent,"
"Bernice Bobs Her Hair,"
"The Birthmark,"
"A Good Man Is Hard to Find,"
"The End of Something"
"Sister Godzilla"
"The Cask of Amontillado,"
"The Lottery,"
“Hills Like White Elephants,” by Hemingway,
“The Jilting of Granny Weatherall,”
“Young Goodman Brown,”
“Bernice Bobs Her Hair,”
"A Temporary Matter"
“The Birthmark,”
"A Good Man Is Hard to Find,"
“Battle Royale”
“Sister Godzilla”

**Betrayal**

**Stories Involving Individuals Who Are Faced With Trying To Fit Into Two Cultures Simultaneously (Children Of Immigrants, Those Whose “Worlds” Collide)**

"Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?"
"A Temporary Matter"
“A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings,”
"The Third and Final Continent,"
“The Secret Lion”
“Two Kinds”
“Battle Royale”