Creative Writing 2: Homework Assignment – Wants & Flaws

Course: Creative Writing 2
Assignment: Companion to Week 3 – Desires & Flaws
Due: Next Class Session

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Submission Instructions

Complete this worksheet at your own pace before the next class session. You may submit your completed work using one of the following methods:

- **Digital / Email:** Type your responses into the digital version of this document available on SchoolNova.org, and email/share your completed worksheet and drafted scene to **Ms. Martocello** at **martocello@stonybrook.edu**.
- **Print:** Print out this completed worksheet along with your 1–2 page typed scene to hand in during class.
- **Handwritten:** Handwrite your answers and 1–2 page scene neatly on paper and submit it in person at the start of class.

Part 1: Planning the Character Engine

Set the engine before you start writing. Pencil first, ink later; 3 sentences is plenty to begin. If stuck, refer to the class slide menu or borrow a want/flaw from someone you know.

- **01. Desire (The Want):** What are they reaching for or chasing? What would they give up to get it?

- **02. Flaw (The Obstacle):** What makes getting what they want harder?

- **03. The Crucible Moment:** Two roads, one louder. What is the central decision or point of tension?

Part 2: Drafting the Scene

Continue the scene started in class. Aim for 1 to 2 pages in a quiet environment. Messy is fine—you are drafting, not delivering a final piece.

1. **Open with the Want:** Place their desire directly in the room.

2. **Let the Flaw Interfere:** Show the flaw working in a way that almost helps, but ultimately costs them.
3. **Arrive at a Decision:** Bring the character to a choice where the flaw leans in (resolution is not required).
4. **Save One Line:** Mark one line of dialogue, action, or thought that reveals the flaw at work.

Attach or type your 1–2 page drafted scene here.

Part 3: Self-Reflection & Analysis

Read your draft closely and sit with your text to answer these three patient questions:

1. The Saved Line & Margin Label

Paste or transcribe your saved line from the scene and complete the prompt:

Saved Line:

This line highlights the flaw because…

2. The Cost

What does the flaw cost your character by the end of this scene? Name it in 1 or 2 sentences.

3. The Lingering Question

What does the reader want to know next, and what does your character not yet know about themselves?

Part 4: Final Submission Checklist

Bring a character in progress to class—not a finished one. Ensure you have completed all required components:

- [ ] **1–2 Page Drafted Scene:** Continuing the class scene.
- [ ] **Saved Line:** Marked in your text with a margin label naming the flaw.
- [ ] **Three Reflection Answers:** Cost, saved line analysis, and lingering question.

Optional Stretch Goal

If the scene still has teeth:

- **Perspective Shift / Paradoxical Flaw:** Rewrite the same scene from a different point of view, or push the flaw into a paradoxical state (e.g., turning loyalty into blind obedience).