

## Exercise: get a clue

150 words. Due on Canvas Assignments Tuesday, February 11, at 10 p.m.

Choose any of the stories assigned so far, and any element of the story that can be described as a clue to the mystery. Please do not choose an aspect of the story that was discussed at length in class. Write a paragraph (about 150 words) in which you:

1. explain where the clue occurs in the story, using a short quotation;
2. attempt to classify the clue according to the typology in Moretti's "Slaughterhouse";
3. propose an interpretation of the significance of the clue for the *themes* or *problems* of the story.

The most important part of this exercise is the interpretation. Here are some possible considerations (you don't have to consider them all): why is the detail deployed as a clue? How does the clue signify in relation to the prevalence or absence of clues of that type in the whole story? What might it mean if it were just ordinary description? What information does it give to the reader as well as to the detective? What is the effect of any difference between what you can know and what the detective knows? How is the reading experience shaped at that point in the narrative by the appearance of detail which becomes a clue?

### GRADING

The grade is on the 4.0 (GPA) scale. A successful exercise identifies a specific clue and uses the text to develop an interesting interpretation that goes beyond the mere statement that the clue *is* a clue.

Late exercises can receive no more than half credit.