

After reading the attached story, write an essay of about 400 (or more) words with a clear **thesis** in response to **ONE** of the following writing prompts. Include at least one **direct quotation** from the story in each body paragraph to support your ideas. Use **in-text citations** and include a **Works Cited page**.

1. Discuss the characters of Richard and Mary in light of their actions within their married relationship.
2. It often takes a misunderstanding to destroy a relationship. Discuss how Richard destroys his relationship with his wife.
3. What does the philosophy book that Richard finds symbolize?
4. When we have successes and failures in life, we often try to understand them by attributing blame or responsibility. How does Richard understand the failures in his life?
5. Identify and describe the ironic element(s) in the story "The Paperback Book."