"Let 'Em Play God" and "Reading Fiction"

Text Evaluations

This assignment is in three parts: **First,** Both "Let 'Em Play God" by Hitchcock and the excerpt entitled "Reading Fiction" refer to authors crafting fiction in some way that uses God-like powers. Explore the extent to which the two texts either agree or disagree on what it means to play "God" and how/why they do so. **Second**, evaluate which one of the three stories that we've read and studied so far ("The Landlady" by Dahl, "The Tell-Tale Heart" by Poe, or "The Monkey's Paw" by Jacobs) best follows Hitchcock's philosophy of building suspense as outlined in his essay. **Then** evaluate which one *least* follows Hitchcock's philosophy. For both, give *specific* reasoning for your overall evaluation. In other words, clearly explain *how* the story does or does not largely follow Hitchcock's philosophy of building suspense. **Finally**, name at least one of the *other* major ideas in the "Reading Fiction" excerpt (which includes the "Fiction and Reality" section), briefly explain it and then apply it, either positively or negatively (meaning you believe it either does or does not apply), to one of the three aforementioned texts.

Part One: Playing "God" (use **both** "Reading Fiction" and "Let 'Em Play God")

Do the two texts agree or disagree with one another about how an author plays God? Give reasoning.

Part Two: Evaluating Texts' Adherence to Hitchcock's Philosophy (do **not** use "Reading Fiction")

Which story that we've studied already this year *most* adheres to Hitchcock's philosophy? Give reasoning.

Which story that we've studied already this year *least* adheres to Hitchcock's philosophy? Give reasoning.

Part Three: Reacting To and Applying "Reading Fiction" (do **not** use "Let 'Em Play God")

Write the quoted idea (must be an idea *outside* of paragraph one, **and** it must be an idea that is developed and explored in the text, not just a passing statement):

Explain, in your own words, what the quote means:

What made you select this idea? For example, is it something you agree with, disagree with, never considered before, etc.?

Apply the idea you selected to a previous text (with specific reasoning). For example, you can say that the idea seems to really fit another story we studied this year and say how, or you can show that it doesn't fit and say what impact that has, etc.