

The Queen of Spades: Analysis Writing Assignments

After reading the short story, **you will write two analysis essays**. Each essay will be approximately **3 well-written paragraphs**.

- **Organize your writing so that you have an obvious beginning, middle, and ending.**
- **Title your essays so that the reader can clearly know what your intentions are for your essays.**

As is always the case with literature that is studied throughout the decades, you do not have to LIKE the story, but you should accept that it is considered to be deserving of appreciation throughout time. Remember, this short story has been studied, produced as film, and used as the plotline for a well-known Tchaikovsky opera.

In this writing exercise, you may be insightful and personal. You may express your own ideas. Write in complete sentences using good writing mechanics.

1. Select one of the themes from the story and write a dual-analysis. In one part of your analysis, consider the theme you select as it exists in the story. In the second part of your analysis, consider the theme as it pertains to your life (past, present, or future).

Themes in *The Queen of Spades*:

- Obsession
- Risk
- The Unpredictability of Life
- Secrecy
- Reality
- Deceitful Behavior

2. Select one of the following options regarding supernatural events that may or may not exist in the short story.

Consider all the things Hermann sees or experiences in the short story that require **other-world involvement**: the funeral, Hermann's home, the card party at Chekalinsky's.

A. Write an essay arguing that Hermann **imagines** the supernatural events in *The Queen of Spades*.

B. Write an essay arguing that **supernatural events really do take place** in *The Queen of Spades*.