**Once Upon A Time**

1) First of all participate in Forum 1 (Write at least 100 words about a daydream or a dream that you have had.)

2) Read the following text but do NOT look up any words that you don’t know.

 

 The Unicorn in the Garden by James Thurber

Once upon a sunny morning a man who sat in a breakfast nook looked up from his scrambled eggs to see a white unicorn with a golden horn quietly cropping the roses in the garden. The man went up to the bedroom where his wife was still asleep and woke her. "There's a unicorn in the garden," he said. "Eating roses." She opened one unfriendly eye and looked at him.

"The unicorn is a mythical beast," she said, and turned her back on him. The man walked slowly downstairs and out into the garden. The unicorn was still there; now he was browsing among the tulips. "Here, unicorn," said the man, and he pulled up a lily and gave it to him. The unicorn ate it gravely. With a high heart, because there was a unicorn in his garden, the man went upstairs and roused his wife again. "The unicorn," he said, "ate a lily." His wife sat up in bed and looked at him coldly. "You are a booby," she said, "and I am going to have you put in the booby-hatch."

The man, who had never liked the words "booby" and "booby-hatch," and who liked them even less on a shining morning when there was a unicorn in the garden, thought for a moment. "We'll see about that," he said. He walked over to the door. "He has a golden horn in the middle of his forehead," he told her. Then he went back to the garden to watch the unicorn; but the unicorn had gone away. The man sat down among the roses and went to sleep.

As soon as the husband had gone out of the house, the wife got up and dressed as fast as she could. She was very excited and there was a gloat in her eye. She telephoned the police and she telephoned a psychiatrist; she told them to hurry to her house and bring a strait-jacket. When the police and the psychiatrist arrived they sat down in chairs and looked at her, with great interest.

"My husband," she said, "saw a unicorn this morning." The police looked at the psychiatrist and the psychiatrist looked at the police. "He told me it ate a lily, " she said. The psychiatrist looked at the police and the police looked at the psychiatrist. "He told me it had a golden horn in the middle of its forehead," she said. At a solemn signal from the psychiatrist, the police leaped from their chairs and seized the wife. They had a hard time subduing her, for she put up a terrific struggle, but they finally subdued her. Just as they got her into the strait-jacket, the husband came back into the house.

"Did you tell your wife you saw a unicorn?" asked the police. "Of course not," said the husband. "The unicorn is a mythical beast." "That's all I wanted to know," said the psychiatrist. "Take her away. I'm sorry, sir, but your wife is as crazy as a jaybird."

So they took her away, cursing and screaming, and shut her up in an institution. The husband lived happily ever after.

Moral: Don't count your boobies until they are hatched.

3) Resume what you have understood.

4) Look at the words ‘Booby’, ‘booby-hatch’ – looking at the context in which they are used what do you think they mean?

  5) How does the story start and finish? What does this remind you of?

6) What other characteristics of this text are often used in this genre?

7) Participate in Forum 2:

(Watch the two films then go onto the forum and say which film you prefer and why. You can react to other people’s opinions. What do you think the man saw and what do you think Thurber is trying to say? Is there a right or wrong interpretation of this story?)

  <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1teJjX-smdE>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jkPOCJRlkUc>

8) Writing Task: to be posted on forum 3

Look at the structure of this short story:

Once upon a time

1.     Character A saw something unexpected/magical/frightening… (maybe?) or had a dream…

        Time ( a sunny morning/ a rainy day/ a winter’s afternoon…)

        Character A (a man, a child…)

        Pronom relative + verbe (who sat…)

        Place (in a breakfast nook/ in the street/in the library…)

        Verb (looked up and saw/ looked down and saw/ noticed/glimpsed…)

        Something unexpected (a white unicorn with a golden horn/ a woman’s open leather handbag/ a talking green frog…)

        Object’s action (quietly cropping the roses in the garden/ sitting on a wall with all its contents placed next to it/ reading out loud from a book…)

2.     Character A told character B about what he/she had seen/dreamed

3.     Character B didn’t believe character A

4.     Character B told the police and a psychiatrist about what character A had seen.

5.     Character A denied the story.

6.     Character B is taken to the booby hatch/loony bin/mental asylum/

7.     …lived happily ever after

8.     Moral

See if you can write a story using a similar structure.