

Mai 2015

### Informal Thought Piece

For this short writing assignment you will be reading and thinking on a short story written by contemporary author John Updike called "A&P." The story is narrated by a grocery clerk named Sammy, and on an initial read it might seem like not a whole lot happens. However, much like the Hemingway story we read at the semester's beginning, a lot is happening "between the lines" and the story may be interpreted in many different ways. Further, there is not even a consensus on how to interpret the story, leaving you a lot of room to explore your own thoughts and ideas about this short narrative.

What is agreed upon is that the events of the story and Sammy's internal comments all lead up to the ending action. Why Sammy does what he does at the story's end, and how that moment becomes a turning point in his life is never revealed. Your task as a reader is to explore your own ideas on these questions.

But you will not be doing this alone. Attached\*\* to this handout are three short articles written by critics. These three critics offer drastically different views on how we as readers should look at Sammy and how we should interpret his final action. In your thought piece you will be entering a dialogue with these critics in order to come to your own conclusions about this story.

\*\*Articles will be posted on my website.

DUE: 9/22