Example thesis statement:

Through characterization, setting, conflict, and theme; this paper will analyze why \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is one of the best short stories read in class.

Paragraph 3 (Characterization and Conflict)

The main characters of “The Interlopers” are Ulrich von Gradwitz and Georg Znaeym. Both men are very revengeful for things that happened long ago. Georg Znaeym is a sneaky man, as he continues to poach animals on the land Gradwitz claims to own. Ulrich von Gradwitz is a determined, brutal man because he intends to catch Znaeym and kill him. However, as the story progresses we see a change in the men after they become trapped. Ulrich is the first to offer a compromise showing his change of heart and the exhaustion of the feud. Georg comes around too and the two men put their pride behind them to help each other. In the conclusion of the story readers see the dynamic characters attempt to resolve the conflict of escaping the downed tree.

Paragraph 4 (Setting and Mood)

The setting of “The Interlopers” is just as intense as the conflict. It takes place a cold, winter evening in a forest near the Carpathians long ago, perhaps medieval times. The trees are bare and ugly, as they are in winter. There is little sound except for the wind rustling the branches of the trees. The setting is described as early winter because snow has not started falling. The mood is very cold and harsh just like the setting. This setting casts a negative, depressing feeling on the reader and as the conflict builds in the dark, cold forest, the reader becomes angry like the characters. The author does a great job building the mood through the setting of the story.

\*\*Notice I did not mention what the characters were doing in the setting that is what your summary is for. Only discuss when and where the story takes place…and the mood!

Paragraph 5 (Conclusion)

**THEME**

The short story, “The Interlopers,” teaches the reader that holding grudges can have lasting effects and it is better to work together. Gradwitz and Znaeym spent many years hating each other and only when they were in trouble did they realize they needed each other. This story was enjoyable because it had action and suspense; not to mention an ironic ending. The sensory details help the reader imagine they are inside the story. Saki wrote “The Interlopers” using great detail in characterization, setting, conflict, and theme; making this an excellent story everyone should read.

**RESTATED THESIS**

**OPINION**