**Mountain of Notes Assignment**

For this writing assignment, you will be creating a “Mountain of Notes” entry about a quotation from (insert text) that follows the template below. First, type out the quotation you plan to analyze (a passage we haven’t discusses and which you think is significant), in quotation marks and with a properly punctuated parenthetical citation. Under the sub-heading “Context,” imagine that you are introducing the quotation as a piece of textual evidence, establishing where and when it occurs in the narrative. I then want you to type out at least five distinct thoughts and ideas about the passage: you can analyze specific words and images, connect the quotation to other moments in the narrative, and write about what it reveals about a specific character (in terms of psychology, belief system, development, etc.). Ideally, this will lead you to a stunning concluding thought or big idea. The document you turn in should be single-spaced, and there should be at least 150 words of analysis. Below is a sample entry on a Raymond Carver story.

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**Passage**

“In the kitchen, he poured another drink and looked at the bedroom suite in his front yard….[T]hings looked much the way they had in the bedroom—nightstand and reading lamp on his side of the bed, nightstand and reading lamp on her side. His side, her side” (155).

**Context:**

These are the very first lines of the story. The unnamed main character is contemplating the scene he has created in his front yard.

**Analysis (including questions and connections):**

-Sets up an immediate dichotomy between husband and wife, their two “sides.”

-Comparing it to title, husband exteriorizes personal life and puts it on display outside.

-He knows precisely where everything goes, which is more typical of women, that he’s arranging furniture in a way associated with women.

-“Another” drink suggests that he’s been drinking and staring at it for awhile.

-Feels compelled to look at what was once inside and is now outside.

-Why the front yard? He’s got something in mind, is it meant to be a yard sale? Or does it only become one once the boy and girl arrive?

-What’s his emotional connection to these possessions?

-Is he exposing himself? The mattress is stripped, the most passionate part of marriage is out there for anyone to see. He is making the most intimate realm of the house alien and strange.

-And, it’s stripped of identity.

-Why are there two distinct sides? Suggests they’re not sharing.

-Man has distance from which to contemplate these intimate things, they’re too close to home in his home.

**Big Idea: Synthesize**

Putting the bedroom of his house on display allows the man to assess it from a distance, transforming the most intimate realm a married couple share into something alien and strange.