**Rustam the Revolving Character**

Directions: This is an example of how a completed outline would look. Please remember the topic being addressed below (dynamic character) is different than the topic you have to address in your paper (fate’s role and whether or not fate can be changed). For each item that has an asterisk by it must be written in a complete sentence. All of the other parts can be shorthanded but must be specific (i.e. do not write anything like the following: “Discuss fate here.”) If you are too vague, you will not earn the points available for that item.

1. **Introduction**

**\*Sample Hook:**  Sometimes something tragic has to happen in order to deeply change a person’s character: a father killing his own son may be one of the most tragic experiences a person can encounter.

1. In Firdawsi’s epic poem “Rustam and Suhrab” from the *Shahnama*…Rustam=strongest Persian warrior

2. R boastful about status

3. War: Persians vs. Turkmans; customary one-on-one battle

4. R unknowingly has a son, S

5. S devises plan to meet father

6. Identities not revealed before battle

7. R tragically slays S=softer, humbler R

8. dynamic character changes; static stays the same

**\*Thesis:** Although Rustam’s main ambition was to defeat Suhrab, meeting his son is the turning point in which he becomes a dynamic character, changing from a self-absorbed soldier to a humbled pacifist.

**II. Body Paragraph #1**

**\*Topic Sentence:** Prior to meeting Suhrab, Rustam proves to be a narcissist.

1. Example #1
   1. R and S meet before battle; R will not reveal identity when asked by S
   2. After S inquires R’s name, R asserts, “I am not to be gulled, attempt it not…” (91).
   3. R states he is an older/wiser soldier and refuses to be tricked=egotistical R
2. Example #2
   1. Legend about R’s strength and making rocks sink in:
   2. “The tale is told that Rustam had at first…” (93).
   3. Expects strength back because he is R

**Note: Follow same format for each body paragraph (you must have an outline**

**for each body paragraph you intend to complete (unless you intend to include Oedipus))**

**III. Body Paragraph #2**

**\*Topic Sentence:** Killing Suhrab is the pivotal moment in the development of Rustam’s character changing him to a modest warrior determined to carry out his son’s wishes.

1. Example #1
   1. R accepts he has just slain his son (via the jewel) and exclaims,
   2. “Oh! my brave son, approved by all/And slain by me!” (95).
   3. R becomes defeated not as a warrior but a newfound father
2. Example #2
   1. R realizes the danger S put the Turks in and realizes,
   2. “I have lost today…Fight not with Turan:/I have done harm enough” (97).
   3. R honors his son by ceasing a full-scale war

**IV. Conclusion**

**Restated/Reworded Thesis:**  While Rustam’s purpose was to slay his opponent to maintain his title as strongest warrior, realizing his status as a father alters his priorities, and he becomes a person who wants to rectify the wrong he has committed towards his son.

1. Rustam = dynamic character bc of vast change in character
2. R begins as immodest soldier
3. Jewel proves S to be R’s son
4. The epiphany R experiences is extremely powerful
5. R finding out he has a son is enough to give him a newfound focus=no war

**\*TPS:** Unfortunately, it often takes a tragedy for individuals to get their priorities straight.