In Nadine Gordimer’s short stories, she conveys excellent messages of irony, descriptive details, and issues of Apartheid in South Africa.

In “Once Upon A Time” and “The Moment Before the Gun…” she uses irony to give the reader a message in the end. Although only two of the stories I read did this ironic ending, I felt like they were both very strong because of it. She has made it important in both to give attention to all the little dangers we can face, and that we as humans can create our own dangers. For example, the son who got cut up because the father was trying so hard to protect themselves or the father of Lucas who did not let it be known that the boy was his son because of the ignorance of the whites in Africa.

In the stories “Ultimate Safari” and “Jump” she brings out her technique of descriptive language that is well known for her books and short stories. In “Jump,” as she describes the man with the “first and second fingers [with crap]-coloured stain of nicotine where the cigarettes burned down,” (5) and his acts of rites into manhood shapes his character. As in the “Ultimate Safari,” we also can imagine the characters of the family who journey through the Park. Although their description is more spread out than in Jump, our first image of them is simply more etched to scale as we go on in the adventure, instead of changing our view completely.

In almost all of her stories, there is some type of example of Apartheid. What is very interesting is that story has a different perspective on the fight of this segregation in South Africa. Gordimer has made almost a web, for in the story “Once Upon a Time,” it is circled around a wealthy Caucasian family who tries to keep the African Americans out, uncaring of what happens to them. Yet, in contrast, the story “Keeping Fit” shows a Caucasian male who
feels some sort of gratitude, or need to believe in the African Americans he had encountered the
day of his run from a destructive gang. In a completely different perspective, “Ultimate Safari”
is of a girl who is being hunted from the Caucasians, hoping to go back home, but will never be
able to. And finally to connect this weave, we have those who are twisted, or confused in their
thoughts, and either fight for what is wrong, or they victimize people for things they do not
deserve.

This essay is probably a C+. It does a nice job picking out important trends. The writer seems to
know the stories well and has an idea of the author’s strengths and trends. Overall, the writer
needs to include some sort of introduction and conclusion, needs to have topic sentences that
take positions, and have more examples throughout.