

Sci-Fi Unit – Alien Encounters – *Shamblau* – Addiction – Think Piece

Controlling Idea: One of the major themes in C.L. Moore's *Shamblau* is the concept of addiction. Northwest Smith becomes instantly addicted to the pleasures of the creature *Shamblau*. In fact, he is in such a deep state of delirium that it is only through the intervention of his friend, Yarol, that Smith is able to escape. He appears helpless on his own. Although the short story was written in 1933, admitting helplessness in the face of addiction has become a cornerstone of modern addiction therapy. In fact, it is the very "first step" in AA's twelve-step programs... "We admitted we were powerless..." However, recently, many modern therapists are taking the opposite tact. They believe admitting powerlessness is actually destructive and harms the person seeking recovery.

Assignment: Do you believe it is beneficial or destructive to admit powerlessness in the face of an addiction?

Format:

- Use textual evidence to support your analysis, integrate quotes from short story
- 1 to 1 1/2 pages, double spaced
- MLA format
- Correct mechanics... punctuation, spelling

____ 20 pts