Literary Analysis for All Texts

A **literary analysis** discusses a reader’s interpretation of a text through careful examination of the author's choices within the text: word choice, themes, motifs, as well as many other **literary** devices.

Students will choose a prompt and compose a 2-3 page essay analyzing how one literary elements impacts the meaning of the work as a whole.

Students must….

* Develop a clear thesis, stating the purpose and setting the tone and direction of the essay.
* Prove the thesis using between two and four body paragraphs.
* Compose body paragraphs that begin with a claim statement and provide supporting details.
* Include textual support, both direct and indirect (with MLA citations) in each body paragraph.
* Include at least two quotes per body paragraph.
* Include a works cited page.

Prompts

1. A symbol is an object, action, or event that represents something or that creates a range of associations beyond itself. In literary works, a symbol can express an idea, clarify meaning, or enlarge literal meaning.

**Prompt: Choose a symbol and analyze how that symbol functions in the work and what it reveals about the characters or themes of the work as a whole.**

1. An author considers hundreds of decisions when building characters. What the character looks like, says, thinks, and does are all details an author uses to develop a character. The author can then use many aspects of this characterization to advance a theme in the novel.

**Prompt: Choose a character from a text from the list. Analyze how the author develops this character in order to advance one of the text’s central themes.**

1. Irony is a contrast or incongruity between expectations for a situation and what is reality. This can be a difference between the surface meaning of something that is said and the underlying meaning. It can also be a difference between what might be expected to happen and what actually occurs.

**Prompt: Select two examples of irony in the text and explain how the author uses irony to reveal character or themes of the work as a whole.**

Paper Specifications:

* 2-3 pages, double-spaced
* Proper MLA format
* Works Cited page
* Times New Roman size 12

List of texts:

* “The Necklace” by Guy de Maupassant
* “The Interlopers” by Saki
* “Story of An Hour” by Kate Chopin
* “One Ordinary Day, with Peanuts” by Shirley Jackson
* “The Lottery” by Shirley Jackson
* “Gaston”byWilliam Saroyan
* *Lord of The Flies* by William Golding

Timeline:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: Thesis due

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: Outline due

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: Rough draft due

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: Second draft due

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: Final draft due