

METHODS OF CHARACTERIZATION

Title of Selection:

Author:

(Name of Character here)

Method	Citations with page or line #s	Traits revealed	Comments/Explanations, etc.
INDIRECT CHARACTERIZATION			
The character is revealed through his/her own speech.			
The author describes how the character looks, dresses, etc.			
The character's private thoughts are revealed.			
The author reveals what other characters say/think about the character.			
The author shows what the character does--how he/she acts.			
DIRECT CHARACTERIZATION			
The author actually states what kind of person the character is: sneaky, honest, innocent, etc.			

SETTING AND MOOD

Title of Selection:

Author:

Questions to Ask about Setting (not all items in listings apply at all times)	Responses (with citations/examples from work that help make your point)
<p>1. What IS the setting? Historical period? Country or locale? Season of the year? Weather? Time of Day? Sights? Sounds? Tastes? Smells? Other details that establish a sense of place and time? (natural or man-made objects, etc.)</p>	
<p>2. Does the setting change during the course of the work? How? What might be significant about any changes?</p>	
<p>3. Are the characters in conflict with their setting? What do the characters want? Does the setting help them in achieving this? Does it hinder their efforts?</p>	
<p>4. What does the setting reveal about the characters? What feelings or attitudes about the setting do the characters reveal? (Fear? Pleasure? Challenge? Dislike? Respect? Other?)</p>	
<p>5. How would you describe the mood or atmosphere the setting creates? (Gloomy? Cheerful? Mysterious? Threatening? Peaceful? Other?) If the setting changes, does the mood change? Why?</p>	
<p>6. Write sentences that tell how the setting may reveal things about a character.</p>	
<p>7. Write sentences telling what you believe the setting and mood contribute to the work as a whole.</p>	

CONFLICT CHART

Title of Selection:

Author:

EXTERNAL CONFLICTS	TYPES (Who? What?)	EXPLANATIONS (How each works and its tie to ideas.)	CITATIONS (with page or line numbers, etc.)
PERSON VS PERSON			
PERSON VS NATURE (natural elements or occurrences, time, etc.)			
PERSON VS SOCIETY (state/government institutions; groups; formal religions/law; rules, mores, taboos, conventions, codes, etc.)			
INTERNAL CONFLICTS	TYPES (Who? What?)	EXPLANATIONS (How each works and its tie to ideas.)	CITATIONS (with page or line numbers, etc.)
PERSON VS HIM/HERSELF (desires/wants vs responsibilities, commitments, oaths, etc.)			

ANALYZING POINT OF VIEW

Title of Selection:

Author:

KINDS OF INFORMATION	Citations with page or line #s	What is revealed	Comments/Explanations, etc.
<p>1. Who is the narrator, speaker, persona, or voice?</p>			
<p>2. From which Point of View is the work told/revealed? First person? Third Person? Omniscient? Limited?</p>			
<p>3. What does the narrator or speaker know that no one else could know?</p>			
<p>4. What does this persona NOT know?</p>			
<p>5. What are the voice's biases, if any? If the narrator/speaker reliable?</p>			
<p>6. How does the Point of View affect the way(s) a reader feels about the characters? (Does it help one identify with a particular character? Does it make the reader sympathize more with one character over another?)</p>			
<p>7. Choose a different point of view/perspective from which the work could be told. How would the work change if this point of view were used. (Explain your response using complete sentences.)</p>			

ANALYZING A WRITER'S STYLE

Title of Selection:

Author:

Questions to Ask about Style	Responses (with citations/examples from work that help make your point)
<p>1. Is the vocabulary simple, or does the writer use many difficult, unfamiliar words? Is the diction formal or informal? How would you describe the language the author uses?</p>	
<p>2. Does the selection contain colloquialisms, slang, or jargon? (colloquial--common, everyday speech slang--informal and substandard vocabulary jargon--words/phrases characteristic of particular professions, pursuits, etc.)</p>	
<p>3. Are the majority of the words concrete (referring to things that can be perceived by the senses) or are they abstract (terms like love, good, etc.)?</p>	
<p>4. Does the writer use specific words (referring to particular people, places, things, etc) or more general words?</p>	
<p>5. Does the writer favor words with particular connotations? (Do these words arouse positive or negative responses to the subject?)</p>	
<p>6. Are the sentences long or short? Do they have a simple, compound, complex, or compound-complex structure? Do the sentences follow the normal order of English, or is the syntax inverted in some way?</p>	
<p>7. Does the writer favor active or passive voice?</p>	
<p>8. Does the writer use such stylistic devices as repetition or parallelism? Where are these devices used? What effect do they have?</p>	
<p>9. What other devices or figures does the writer use?</p>	
<p>10. Write sentences telling what you believe the writer's overall style is and how this contributes to the work as a whole.</p>	

DISCOVERING THEME

Title of Selection:

Author:

Questions to Help Discover and State Theme	Responses (wherever possible, note citations/examples from the work that help make your point)
<p>1. Does the title suggest something about the whole work? Does it point to the truth the work points out about life/the human condition? (not all titles do this)</p>	
<p>2. Does the main character change in the course of the work? Does this character realize something that he/she had not known, realized, or understood before?</p>	
<p>3. Are there any important statements about human experience made in the work--either by the narrative voice or by characters?</p>	
<p>4. Is the theme directly stated? Is so, where is it stated?</p> <p>(This is rare; however it does occur in works like Greek tragedy, for example.)</p>	
<p>5. In one sentence state the work's major theme? How do you respond to the theme? Do you think the writer is presenting a general truth about life?</p> <p>(Remember great literature is great because the idea[s] about the human condition that it fosters are <i>universal</i> in nature.)</p>	
<p>6. Write separate sentences for any additional themes you believe the writer has developed in the work. Note how each of these is universal in nature.</p> <p><i>N.B. Remember that a theme must be written as a sentence that states what the author is trying to suggest about a topic area.</i></p> <p>E.g. Thematic Topic Area--Love Theme statement-- In <i>Romeo and Juliet</i>, Shakespeare suggests that true love can overcome all odds.</p>	