

Writing Literary Analysis Papers

Literary Analysis Terms

- 1) **Plot:** exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution.
- 2) **Characterization:** the choices an author makes to reveal a character's personality
 - Protagonist: the character the story revolves around
 - Antagonist: the character or force opposing the protagonist
 - Static: remains the same
 - Dynamic: changes in some important way
- 3) **Conflict:** Person vs. Person; Person vs. Self; Person vs. Nature; Person vs. Society; Person vs. Technology; Person vs. Supernatural
- 4) **Setting:** time and place
- 5) **Theme:** what a work says about a topic or subject.
- 6) **Imagery:** when an author creates a mental picture using sensory details (five senses)
- 7) **Figurative language:** the use of words to express meaning beyond the literal meaning
 - Metaphor: comparison of one thing to another without the use of like or as
 - Simile: the comparison of one thing to another using like or as
 - Hyperbole: exaggeration
 - Personification: giving non-human objects human characteristics
- 8) **Symbolism:** when an object is meant to be representative of a greater idea
- 9) **Point of View (POV):** who is telling the story and how it is being told
 - Narrator: the person telling the story that may or may not be a character in the story
 - First-Person Narrator: narrator participates in action but may have limited knowledge
 - Third-Person Narrator: narrator is unidentified/unnamed
 - Omniscient: all-knowing narrator

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Literary Analysis Worksheet

1) Introduction

Identify the work, the author, and any other important details

2) Focus of the Analysis

Which literary elements are you going to analyze? Plot, characters, theme, imagery, language, etc.

3) Thesis

4) Key Supporting Points

Claim	Evidence from the text

5) Conclusion