What is Literary Analysis?
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- It is analysis.
- It is about literature.
- It is an exploration of a piece of literature for a specific purpose.
- Sometimes it involves research of secondary sources.
What do I do?

• Read a particular piece of literature, like a short story, novella, novel, poem, or play.

• Look at one or more specified literary devices – elements of literature
  – Plot
  – Character
  – Theme
  – Symbolism
  – Conflict
You may also consider...

- Figurative language
- Irony
- Setting
- Historical connections
- Societal connections
- Point of view
- Personal connections
- Others
What if I need help?

- There are variety of handbooks written to help with literary analysis.
- The internet can be a good source for viewing the literary analysis of others and for guides to literary analysis.
- And of course, you can always ask a teacher or librarian.
What is an Analysis?

• An analysis of a literary work may discuss
  – Some element of a single piece of literature, such as: THEME, Characterization, Setting, point of view
  – Two different pieces of literature, comparing and contrasting, or looking at some particular element (as above)
  – The literary piece’s connection or comparison to some aspect of your world – social, political, economical, etc.
How do I define my PURPOSE?

• Your purpose may be chosen for you (like discuss one THEME of a piece, or compare the story’s protagonist to someone in history, etc.)

• You will identify this Purpose in your introductory paragraph in the THESIS Statement.

• AND then you will support or defend your purpose in your body paragraphs.
Which is the best Thesis (purpose) Statement?

- One theme of *The Old Man and the Sea* is personal struggle.
- *The Old Man and the Sea* is about an old man and a fish.
- In *The Old Man and the Sea*, the theme of personal struggle is demonstrated through the character of Santiago and his unyielding desire to bring the marlin home.
How do I support my thesis statement?

- **Examples from the text:**
  - Direct quotations (word for word statements from the text)
  - Summaries of scenes (brief summaries of specific scenes)
  - Paraphrase (putting what the author says into your own words – effective with longer passages)
In some cases Secondary Sources are required and include:

- Other critics’ opinions
- Historical and social context
- As you research Secondary Sources, it is important to read carefully and highlight useful passages and quotes.

**NOTE:** A writing assignment will specify the need for secondary sources.
What is a secondary source?

- A book or article that discusses the specific text or texts you are exploring
- A book or article which discusses the element or purpose you are exploring
- A book or article that discusses the social and historical context of the text you are exploring
How and where do I find secondary sources?

- Your local or school library
  - Reference books of Literary Criticisms
  - Data bases of Literary Criticisms
  - Literary periodicals
- Online search engines
- A bibliography that is part of your text
- Ask a teacher or librarian
Incorporating QUOTES into your paper.

- When you use primary or secondary sources, be sure to explain how they relate to your thesis.
- Don’t simply “stick” a quote into your essay – incorporate it with your own words.
- Remember that this is your paper, your analysis—the primary and or secondary sources are just helping you support your thesis.
- Never, never, never plagiarize – take the words or ideas of another and use them as your own.
- You MUST credit your sources.
Internal Documentation: Primary Source

Whether you use direct (word for word quotes) or indirect quotes (paraphrasing), you must give credit to the SOURCE.

- “Santiago struggled for hours, the sun burning his scalp and parching his lips” (Hemingway 89). Direct quote primary source.
- The old man fought day after day, his lips parched and his hands worn and bleeding (Hemingway 91). Indirect quote primary source.
Secondary Sources

• Whether you use direct (word for word quotes) or indirect quotes (paraphrasing), you must give credit to the SOURCE.
  – In his literary article about *The Old Man and the Sea*, John Doe state, “Santiago is the typical tragic hero” (68). Direct quote.
  – “Santiago is the typical tragic hero,” and he is clearly destined to fail (Doe 68). Direct quote.
  – According to John Doe, Santiago is a tragic hero (68). Indirect quote.
In Conclusion:

• Literary Analysis is an exploration of one or more pieces of literature for a specific purpose.

• Includes PRIMARY Source support.

• Can include SECONDARY Source support.