
UNIVERSITY OF THE PEOPLE

ENGL 1405-01 World Literature - AY2024-T2

Learning Journal Unit 1

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This week's lessons on critically analyzing fiction have taught me the importance of looking deeper into stories to extract meaning. Beyond just following the plot, we can ask questions about the author's choices and how they comment on society and human nature. We even read fiction from different time periods to see how it sheds light on those cultural moments.

At first, I thought critically analyzing stories would ruin the enjoyment - like overthinking things too much. But I realized it makes you appreciate the craft and insight into great works more deeply. Examining techniques like point of view, symbolism, character development, and setting reveals what makes a story emotionally resonate and stay with you.

I used to just read fiction for entertainment and escapism before. But now I see how I can apply a more thoughtful lens to relate themes in novels to my own experiences. For instance, by analyzing the actions of a protagonist who overcomes adversity, I can reflect on times I showed grit and perseverance in my life's challenges. Seeing relationships and social structures in stories portrayed in nuanced ways has helped me think about my own friendships and peers at school with more empathy.

Literature provides unique windows into lives so different than our own. Critically reflecting on those perspectives develops our compassion and open-mindedness. In social studies class, as we read historical fiction from other eras, I feel like I have grown in my ability to understand situations outside my own. The next time I read a stirring novel, I will consider how I can connect its lessons to my own goals and growth. Literature expands our world when we know how to mine the rich ideas within it. I hope to keep developing my skills to do just that, even outside of school assignments. This analytical approach will stay with me far beyond this class and help me continue learning from everything I read.

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Reference:

Word count: 321