



ANALYSIS

How to read fiction and think

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ANALYSIS

Analysis is the first step in thinking critically

Analysis, simply put, is the ability for a person to read or view an item critically.

We will go over the three basic parts of reading critically:
Why/So What?/Who, What, and When, Where and How.

1. Why? Why? Why? Why?
2. So what?
3. Who, What, When, Where, and How.

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Why? Why? Why?

When you read something (or hear anything) always think, "WHY?"

WHY is this person telling me this?

WHY is the person saying it in a particular way?

WHY is the person not saying it another way?

WHY should you care about what the author says?

1. Why? Why? Why? Why?
2. So what?
3. Who, What, When, Where, and How.

ANALYSIS

So what?

Ask yourself “So What?”

The writer used a first person point of view—So What?

There is a lack of description for where the character is—So What?

The ending wasn't what you thought—So What?

Ask yourself So What—see if you can provide an answer and write those answers down.

1. Why? Why? Why? Why?
2. So what?
3. Who, What, When, Where, and How.

ANALYSIS

WHO—Character and Narrator

The character:

- What does the character want?
- Does the character get it?
- How does the character change?

The narrator:

- What is the point of view?
- Do you trust the narrator?
- Why did the author pick that narrator instead of a different one?

1. Why? Why? Why? Why?
2. So what?
3. **Who**, What, When, Where, and How.

ANALYSIS

The Plot

- What is the main concept of the story?
 - How does the author achieve this?
 - Does the way the characters act make sense to the plot?
 - Does the plot make you think of something you've read or seen before?
1. Why? Why? Why? Why?
 2. So what?
 3. Who, **What**, When, Where, and How.

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The Setting

- WHEN is the story set?
 - WHERE is the story set?
 - Can you picture yourself in this setting?
 - Would you be able to draw the setting as it is described?
 - What stands out about this setting?
 - Why do you think the author set the story in that particular time?
1. Why? Why? Why? Why?
 2. So what?
 3. Who, What, **When**, **Where**, and How.

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The Language

- Who gets the most 'speaking lines'? Why do you think this is?
 - How is the prose constructed? Is it choppy? Long sentences? Short ones? Mixed? Why do you think this is?
 - What is the rhythm of the prose?
 - How many words did you have to look up? What level of education do you think the prose is aimed at?
1. Why? Why? Why? Why?
 2. So what?
 3. Who, What, When, Where, and How.



ANALYSIS

What to avoid?

Now that you've seen a few things on what to look for when you read fiction critically, here are few tips on what to avoid.

1. Copy/Paste happy
2. The EXPERTS Say...
3. Maybe I'm wrong!

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Being Copy/Paste Happy!

When you discuss a story, a 'rookie' mistake is to copy/paste huge chunks of the story.

Remember when we asked ourselves "So What?" and "Who Cares?" when we read? The same applies for your writing.

If you copy/paste things without actually saying WHY we should care or WHAT you are pasting matters, then you aren't helping your own argument.



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I'm not an expert, so
my opinion doesn't
matter :(

Experts do not grow out of the ground—they train for their expertise. You are training for yours too! Also, just because you don't have this or that degree doesn't mean you can't read a book and tell us what it means to YOU. In fact, ONLY YOU can tell us what a book means to YOU!



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What if I am wrong?!

If you make an honest attempt at analysis and try to give your view on the story and someone says “You’re Wrong!” then...

So what?

People do not have to agree with each other about the ‘meaning’ of a reading.

I am an author. When people who have read my work talk to me about it, I often wonder if they read the same story. The point is—stories will mean different things to different people. It’s actually a major reason why we share and give analysis for the stories—so we can learn from each other!