

Questions for Analysing a Text

1. Did you like or dislike the story/poem/play? Why or why not?

Plot and Structure

1. What happens in the story?
2. What kind(s) of conflict do you see?

Setting

1. When and where did the story take place?

Tone

1. What is the author's attitude toward the subject area?
2. How does the tone affect the meaning?

Character

1. Which character does the reader most closely identify with? This character is the protagonist. Is there an antagonist (someone in conflict with the protagonist)?
2. Character evaluation might include the use of adjectives, such as "flat," "stale," "round," and "stereotypical."
3. What are the motives for one or more of the characters' actions?
4. How are the characters interacting with each other and with their environment?
5. Do you see any changes in the characters' actions, motivations, and/or interactions?

Point of View

1. If the words "I," "me," or "my" appear outside of the dialogue in a story, then the first person point of view is being used.
2. Is the narrator biased or unreliable?
3. The third person point of view tells the story entirely by making references to the other characters in the story—there will be no instances of "I" or "you" outside of the dialogue.

Theme

1. What is the message or main point of the text?
2. What is the work of literature saying about humanity, the world, and/or some event?
3. What is the meaning of the text?
4. What does the title suggest about the theme of the story, poem, or play?

Images and Symbols

1. What pictures does a reader create while reading the text?
2. What characters or objects are symbolic (stand for other things)? For example, a rose may stand for love, and a thorn may stand for a painful aspect of love.
4. What do the images in the work of literature suggest to a reader?