

Name:
Mrs. Harper and Mr. Snyder
English 8- _____
Date: _____

Literary Analysis

Essay Due: _____

When you read for pleasure your goal is enjoyment. You might find yourself reading to get caught up in an exciting story, to learn about an interesting time or place, or just to pass the time.

When you read a work of literature in an English class, however, you're being asked to read with a specific purpose: you're being asked to perform literary analysis. To analyze something means to break it down into smaller parts and then examine how those parts work, both individually and together (MAKING SMALLER CIRCLES). Literary analysis involves examining all parts of a novel, short story, or poem- elements such as character, setting, tone, and imagery- and thinking about how the author uses those elements to create a certain effect.

In literary analysis essays, the author asks and answers questions such as: "How does this piece of literature actually work?" "How does it do what it does?" and "Why might the author have made the choices he or she did?"

Six Steps:

No one is born knowing how to analyze literature; it is a skill you learn and a process you can master. Throughout this year, I asked you to practice analysis through Socratic Seminar, debate, short answer tests/quizzes, your shields for *Frankenstein*, and in your literature circles. Below are six steps to use when you are asked to write literary analysis responses.

1. Ask questions
2. Collect evidence
3. Construct a thesis
4. Develop and organize arguments/examples/textual evidence
5. Write an outline
6. Write your essay (introduction, body paragraphs, conclusion)

Your Task:

You will spend the next week writing literary analysis. You must choose one of the elements we focused on in our analysis of *Frankenstein* (one of the smaller circles) and explain how this element was used by Mary Shelley to help the reader grasp the big idea you prove in your essay.

To prepare yourself to think about *Frankenstein* analytically, you must first create a an outline for your essay to include how the literary tool used helps to prove your thesis. Make sure to think about the literary element you will discuss in your essay. To write a strong piece of work, keep in mind your audience and how you will pull them into your analysis, along with how you will leave them with a reminder about the importance of the ideas in your essay to a larger world context.