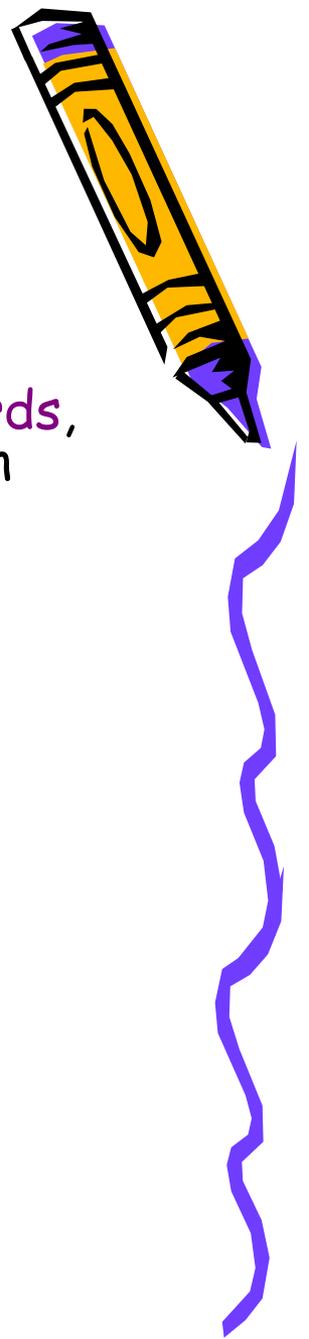
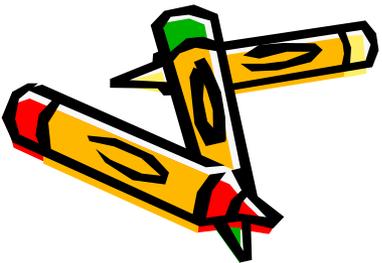


Response to Literature
through Inferencing

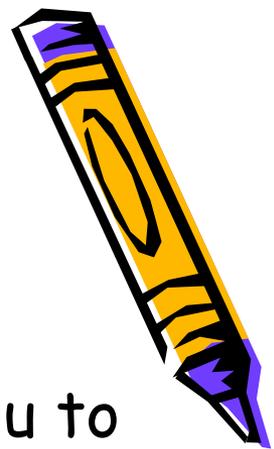
Character Inference Points



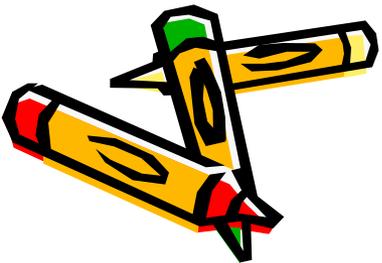
- Character Analysis—take **actions**, **thoughts**, **spoken words**, **interactions with other characters**, and draw conclusion about the character's
 - Feelings
 - Values
 - Beliefs
 - Personality
 - Experiences
 - Likes/Dislikes
 - Motivations
 - Wisdom about people/life



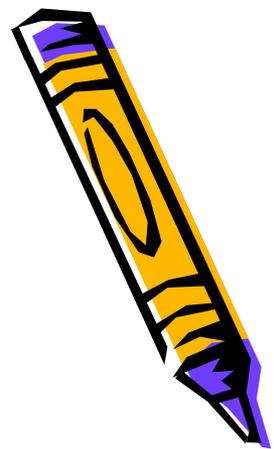
Making Inferences



- Authors can't tell you everything they want you to know about the story
- You have to use clues from the text and draw own conclusions/inferences
- Your conclusions/inferences are your own thoughts not stated in the text
- Inference = text clues (actions, thoughts, spoken words, interactions with other characters) + your background knowledge



Characterization



1. Author tells us directly

Ex. Kino felt weak and afraid and angry.

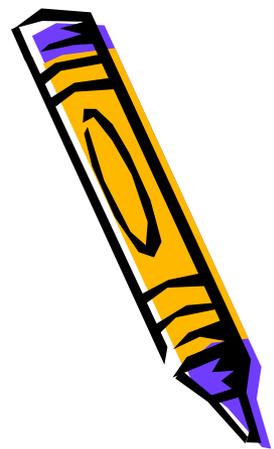
2. How a character acts

Ex. When the doctor discovered where Kino hid his pearl, Kino wisely waited until the doctor left. Then, he dug another hole in the dirt floor so no one would find it.

This act show that Kino was a wise man.



Characterization



3. Character's thoughts or words

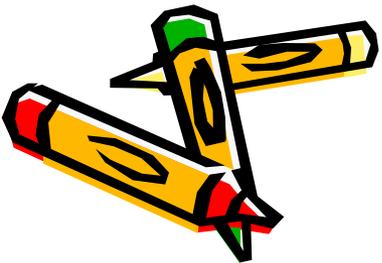
Ex. Kino says that because of the pearl Juana will have a new shawl and skirt while Coyotito will go to school.

This indicates that Kino is a good man and loves his family.

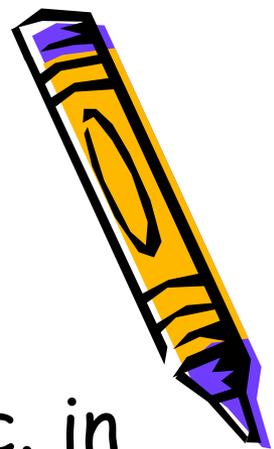
4. Reaction of others

Ex. When Kino found the great pearl, men said of him that his eyes shone and that he had become "a great man."

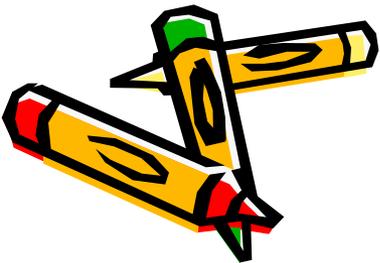
From those words you can tell that people thought well of him.



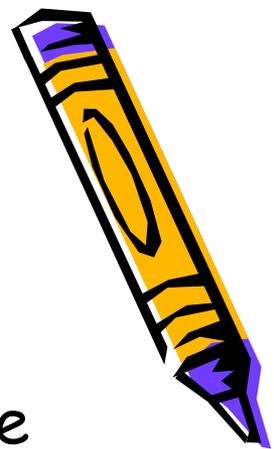
Justifying/Commentary



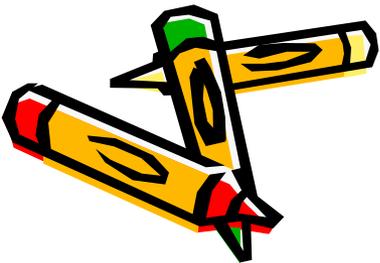
1. Compare events/thoughts/actions/etc. in the story **to your own life**:
 - a. What did you think/feel/want
 - b. Why did you think/feel/want what you did?
 - c. ** Remember to not use "I", "me", "my", etc.



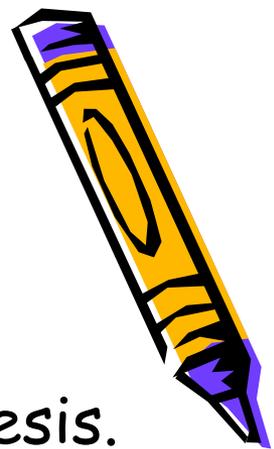
Justifying/Commentary



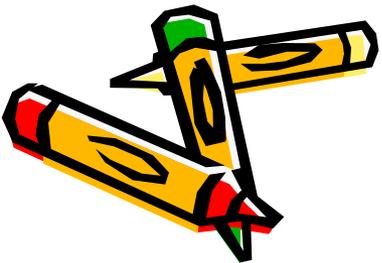
2. Compare events/thoughts/action etc. from the story **to wisdom from others**.
 - a. Think of fables/parables or other stories you've been with obvious lessons about life that match your inference/thesis
 - b. Weave those lessons about life into your justification



Justifying/Commentary



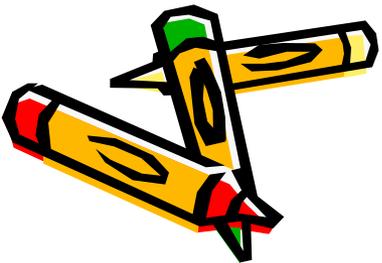
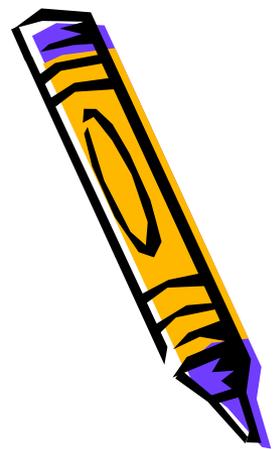
3. **Use a definition** to support your inference/thesis.
 - a. Define word used to describe character
 - b. Explain how the actions, thoughts, feelings, etc. of the character match the definition



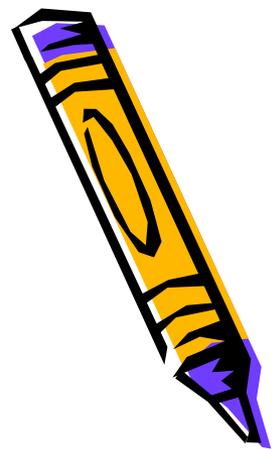
Justifying/Commentary

In General

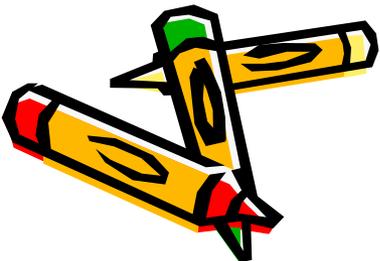
- a. Put yourself in character's situation
- b. What do you think they would feel/think/want if they could control their situation and make it better?
- c. What makes the character feel/think/want that way?
- d. What do you think the character realizes/recognizes/wants/will do in the future?



Explicit Example

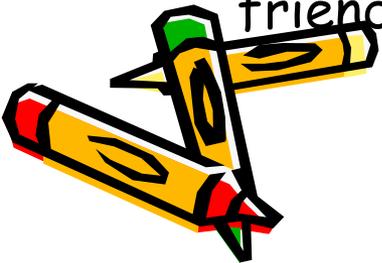
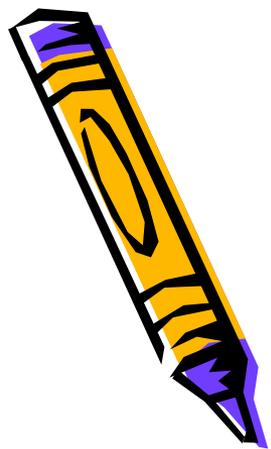


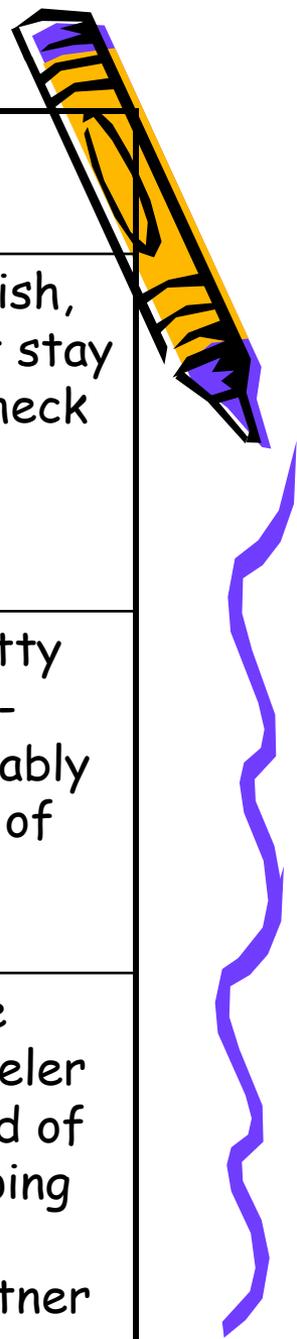
- The Bear and the Travelers
 - Characters: Traveler 1, Traveler 2, Bear
 - Conflict: Bear appears as two people are walking down a road
 - Plot: Traveler 1 hops up a tree and leaves the other to fend for himself
 - Traveler 2 pretends to be dead
 - Bear leaves traveler 2 alone—thinks he's dead, whispers advice in his ear.



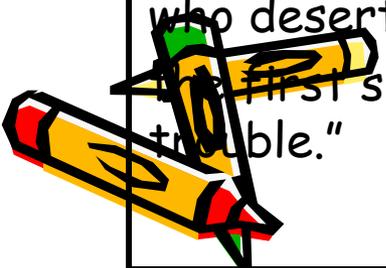
The Bear and the Travelers

Two travelers were on the road together, when a bear suddenly appeared on the scene. Before he observed them, one made for a tree at the side of the road, and climbed up into the branches and hid there. The other was not so nimble as his companion; and, as he could not escape, he threw himself on the ground and pretended to be dead. The bear came up and sniffed all round him, but he kept perfectly still and held his breath; for they say that a bear will not touch a dead body. The bear took him for a corpse, and went away. When the coast was clear, the traveler in the tree came down, and asked the other what it was the bear has whispered to him when he put his mouth to his ear. The other replied, "he told me never again to travel with a friend who deserts you at the first sign of danger."

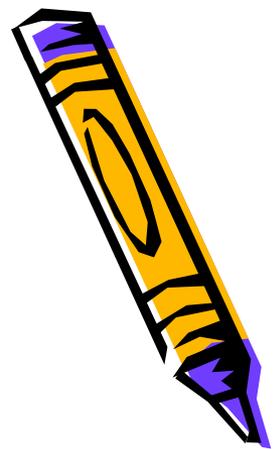




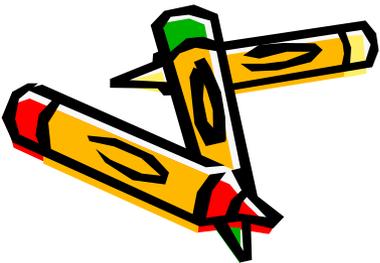
Text	Background Knowledge	Inference
" . . .one made for a tree on the side of the road . . . and hid there."	Got caught down the hill doing something bad—friends took off and left me alone to suffer in isolation	Traveler 1 is selfish, because he didn't stay behind to help/check on his buddy.
" . . .not as nimble as his companion . . . threw himself on the ground and pretended to be dead."	When people take care of themselves and don't get help from others they're independent—by weary	Traveler 2 is pretty clever and is self-reliant—but probably isn't too trusting of traveler 1 now.
" He told me to never travel with a friend who deserts you at the first sign of trouble."	I've had relationships that breakdown when difficulties arise. Once people abandon you once, they usually do it again.	Traveler 2 will be skeptical of Traveler 1. He'll feel proud of himself for escaping danger but may choose a new partner for his travels.



Phase I--Response to Literature Paragraph

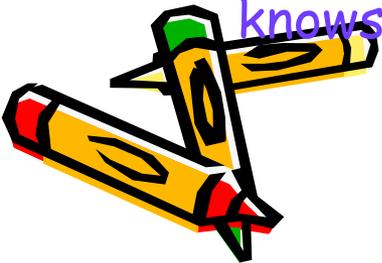


- Sentence 1 & 2—Introduce short story
- Sentence 3—Inference about character=Thesis
- Sentence 4—Quote that inspired inference
- Sentence 5 & 6—Justification of how the quote illustrates the inference
- Sentence 7—Conclusion—restatement of inference



Example Paragraph

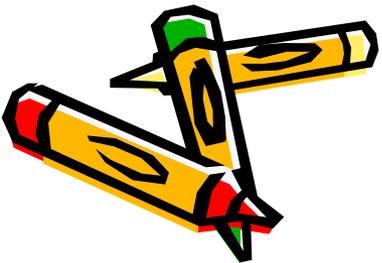
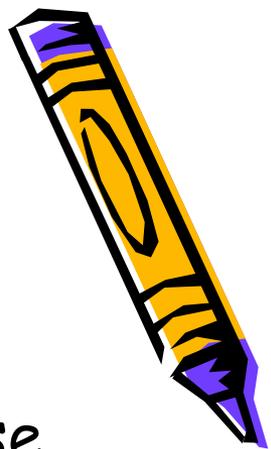
The fable, "The Bear and Travelers" by Aesop tells the story of two people on a journey who encounter a bear. As the two men deal with their life threatening situation, their friendship is tested. Traveler 2 experiences abandonment by Traveler 1 and realizes he has made an unwise choice in his friendship. For example, when the bear leaves the travelers, the first traveler wonders what the bear said to him, Traveler 2 replies, "He told me to never travel with a friend who deserts you at the first sign of trouble." Traveler 2 realizes that he must take care of himself and he can't count on Traveler 1 helping him out. When friends are in danger, they usually work together to get out of their problem. Traveler 1 abandoned him at the first sign of danger, so he is most likely to abandon him again if another troubling situation arises. Traveler 2 knows the best predictor for future behavior is past behavior and now knows that Traveler 1 was a poor choice in friends.



Justifications

Traveler 2 experiences abandonment by Traveler 1 and realizes he has made an unwise choice in his friendship. For example, when the bear leaves the travelers, the first traveler wonders what the bear said to him. Traveler 2 replies, "He told me to never travel with a friend who deserts you at the first sign of trouble." *Those who abandon friends in need once will most likely repeat that behavior. Nothing is worse than having to confront danger alone when there is an expectation of support. If people are untrustworthy once, they will most likely disappoint again.*

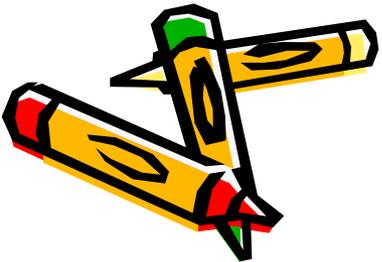
Compared events/thoughts/action in story to own life



Justifications

Traveler 2 experiences abandonment by Traveler 1 and realizes he has made an unwise choice in his friendship. For example, when the bear leaves the travelers, the first traveler wonders what the bear said to him, Traveler 2 replies, "He told me to never travel with a friend who deserts you at the first sign of trouble." *Traveler 2 realizes that Traveler 1 is not a friend. Friends support each other in times of trouble. A true friend will take control, abandon control, make decisions, and guide their friend in need into a place of safety and security.*

Used a definition or examples/non-examples to support your inference/thesis

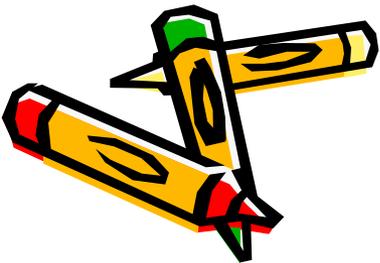


Justifications

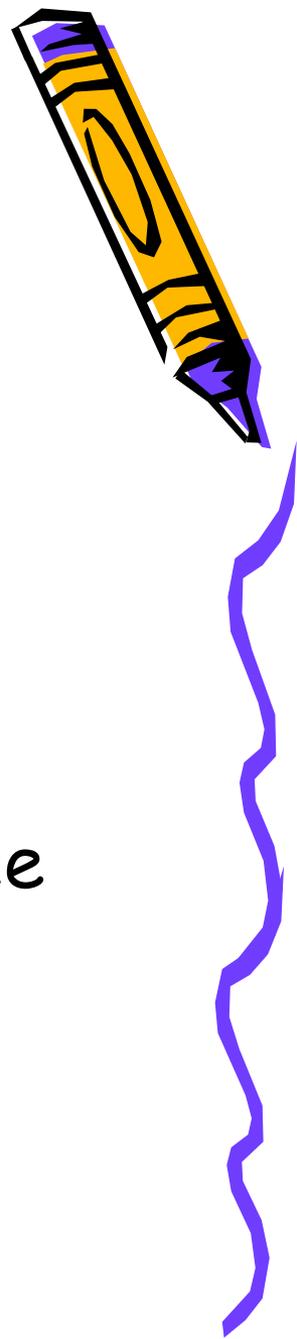
Traveler 2 experiences abandonment by Traveler 1 and realizes he has made an unwise choice in his friendship. For example, when the bear leaves the travelers, the first traveler wonders what the bear said to him, Traveler 2 replies, "He told me to never travel with a friend who deserts you at the first sign of trouble." *As the saying goes, a friend in need is a friend indeed. This old saying defines friendship as a role of service to fellow man.*

Traveler 2 abandoning Traveler 1 defies the spirit of friendship. Knowing that Traveler 2 walks away from the responsibilities of friendship, Traveler 1 will know not to count on him again.

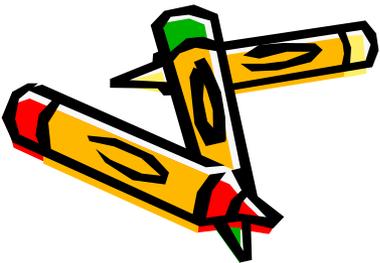
Compared events/thoughts/actions/etc. from the story to wisdom from others.



Types of Problems with Response to Lit Paragraphs

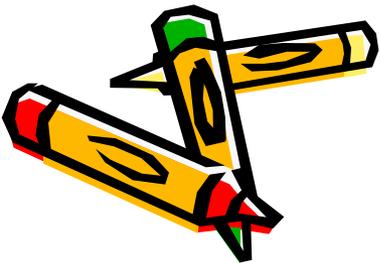
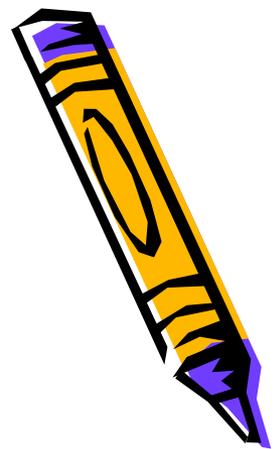


1. Generic justification
2. Justification is off topic
3. Justification is really a concrete detail
4. Justification is repetitious
5. Justification contradicts topic sentence



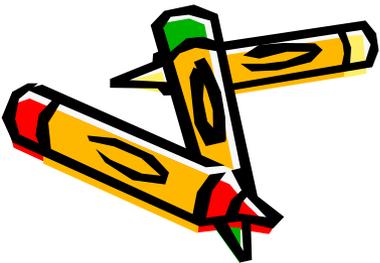
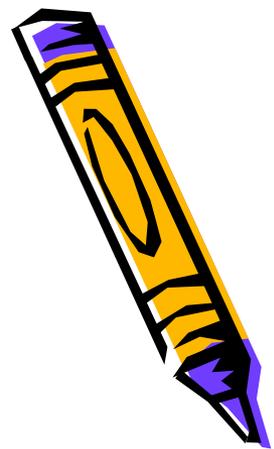
Justification is Really Just a Detail

Traveler 2 experiences abandonment by Traveler 1 and realized he has made an unwise choice in his friendship. For example, when the bear leaves the travelers, the first traveler wonders what the bear said to him. Traveler 2 replies, "He told me to never travel with a friend who deserts you at the first sign of trouble." *The first traveler just jumped up a tree and never looked out for his friend. Thank goodness the other friend found a tree to jump into.*



Justification Drifts from the Topic Sentence

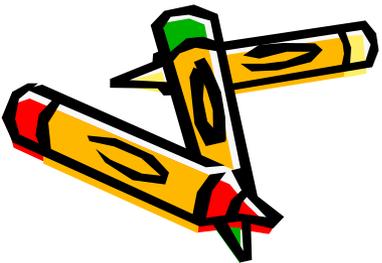
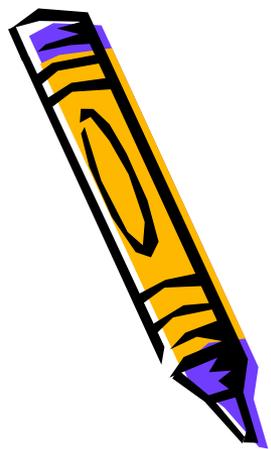
Traveler 2 experiences abandonment by Traveler 1 and realized he has made an unwise choice in his friendship. For example, when the bear leaves the travelers, the first traveler wonders what the bear said to him. Traveler 2 replies, "He told me to never travel with a friend who deserts you at the first sign of trouble." *Traveling can be dangerous. It's always good to keep track of dangers.*



Generic Justification

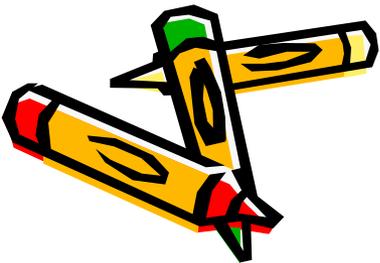
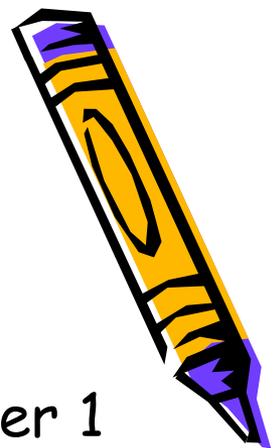
Traveler 2 experiences abandonment by Traveler 1 and realized he has made an unwise choice in his friendship. For example, when the bear leaves the travelers, the first traveler wonders what the bear said to him. Traveler 2 replies, "He told me to never travel with a friend who deserts you at the first sign of trouble."

Traveler 2 has to make better friends. He is not good at friend choosing.



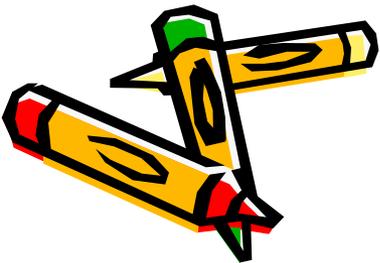
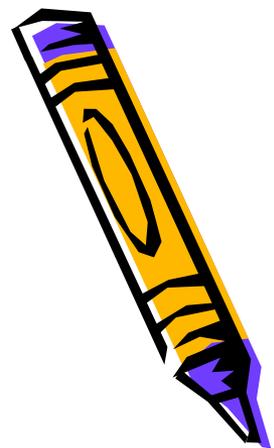
Justification is Repetitious

Traveler 2 experiences abandonment by Traveler 1 and realized he has made an unwise choice in his friendship. For example, when the bear leaves the travelers, the first traveler wonders what the bear said to him. Traveler 2 replies, "He told me to never travel with a friend who deserts you at the first sign of trouble." *The bear told the second traveler to not choose friends who are deserters. The first traveler did abandon him.*



Justification Contradicts Topic Sentence

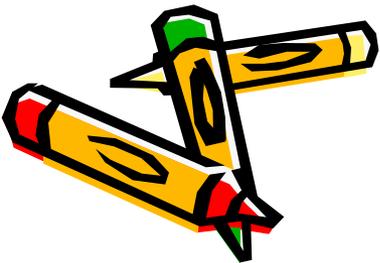
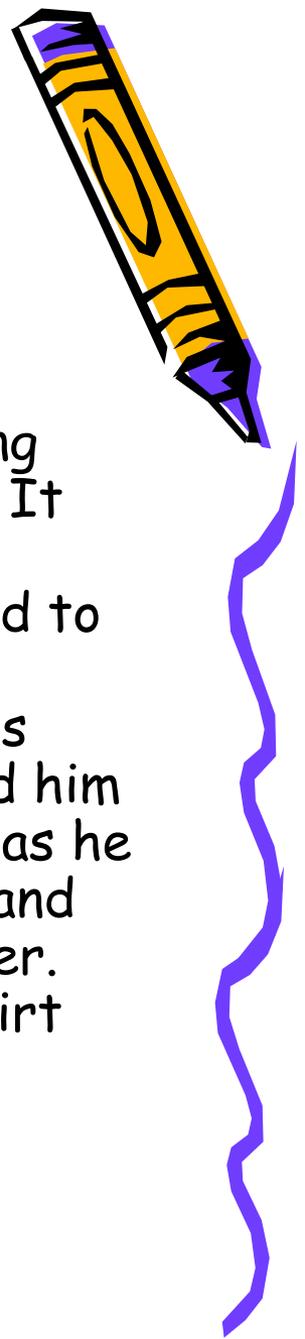
Traveler 2 experiences abandonment by Traveler 1 and realized he has made an unwise choice in his friendship. For example, when the bear leaves the travelers, the first traveler wonders what the bear said to him. Traveler 2 replies, "He told me to never travel with a friend who deserts you at the first sign of trouble." *However, the friend didn't exactly abandon him. He was in the tree near where the first traveler pretended to be dead. He didn't actually leave him.*

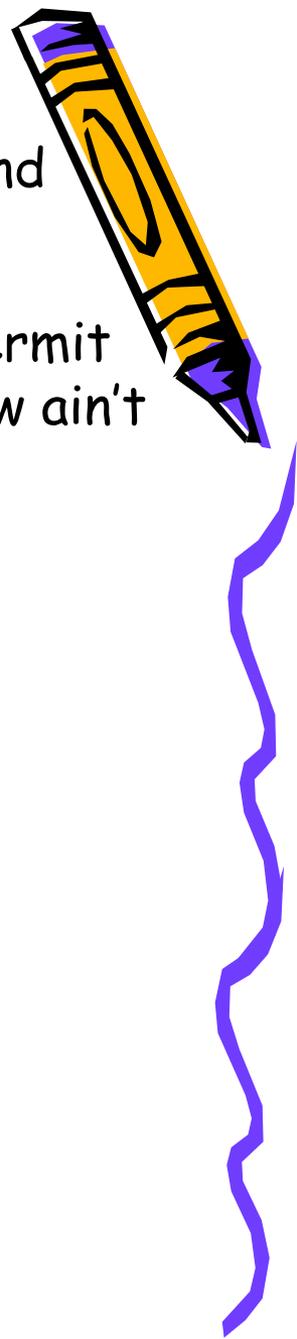


Thank You, Ma'am

By Langston Hughes

She was a large woman with a large purse that had everything in it but a hammer and nails. It had a long strap, and she carried it slung across her shoulder. It was about eleven o'clock at night, dark and she was walking alone, when a boy ran up behind her and tried to snatch her purse. The strap broke with the sudden single tug the boy gave it from behind. But the boy's weight and the weight of the purse combined caused him to lose his balance. Instead of taking off full blast as he had hoped, the boy fell on his back on the sidewalk and his legs flew up, right square in his blue-jeaned sitter. Then she reached down, picked the boy up by his shirt front, and shook him until his teeth rattled.





After that the woman said, "Pick up my pocketbook, boy and give it here."

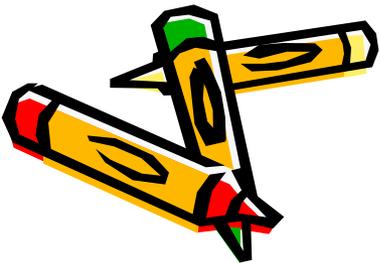
She still held him tightly. But she bent down enough to permit him to stoop and pick up her purse. Then she said, "Now ain't you ashamed of yourself?"

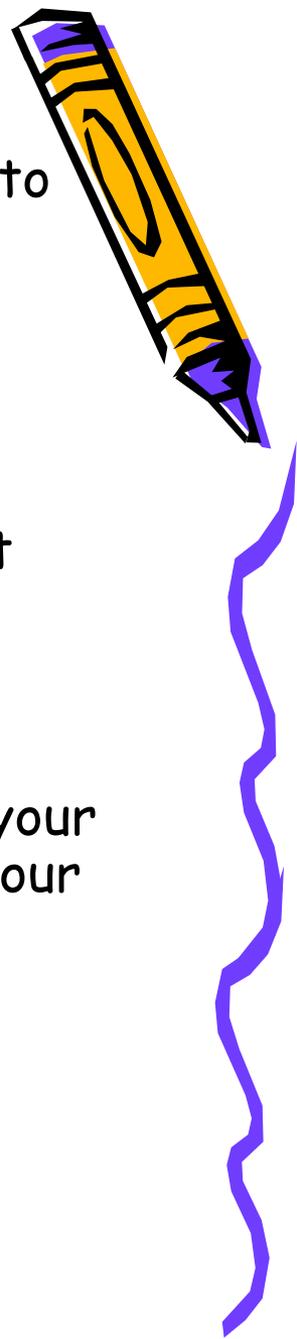
Firmly gripped by his shirt front, the boy said, "Yes'm."

The woman said, "what did you want to do it for?"

The boy said, "I didn't aim to."

She said, "You a lie!"





By that time two or three people passed, stopped, turned to look, and some stood watching.

"If I turn you loose, will you run?" asked the woman.

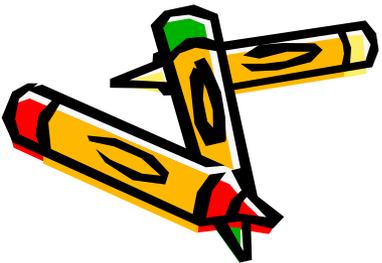
"Yes'm," said the boy.

"Then I won't turn you loose," said the woman. She did not release him.

"Lady, I'm sorry," whispered the boy.

"Um-hum!" Your face is dirty. I got a great mind to wash your face for you. Ain't you got nobody to tell you to wash your face?"

"No'm," said the boy.





"Then it will get washed this evening," said the large woman, starting up the street, dragging the frightened boy behind her.

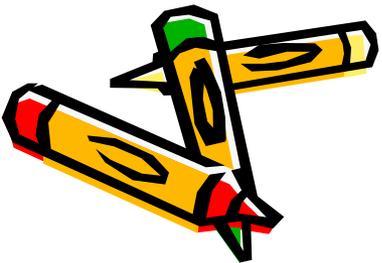
He looked as if he were fourteen or fifteen, frail and willow-wild, in tennis shoes and blue jeans.

The woman said, "You ought to be my son. I would teach you right from wrong. Least I can do right now is to wash your face. Are you hungry?"

"No'm," said the being-dragged boy. "I just want you to turn me loose."

"Was I bothering *you* when I turned that corner?" asked the woman.

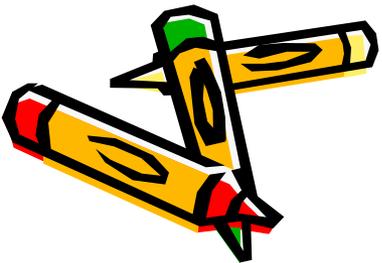
"No'm."

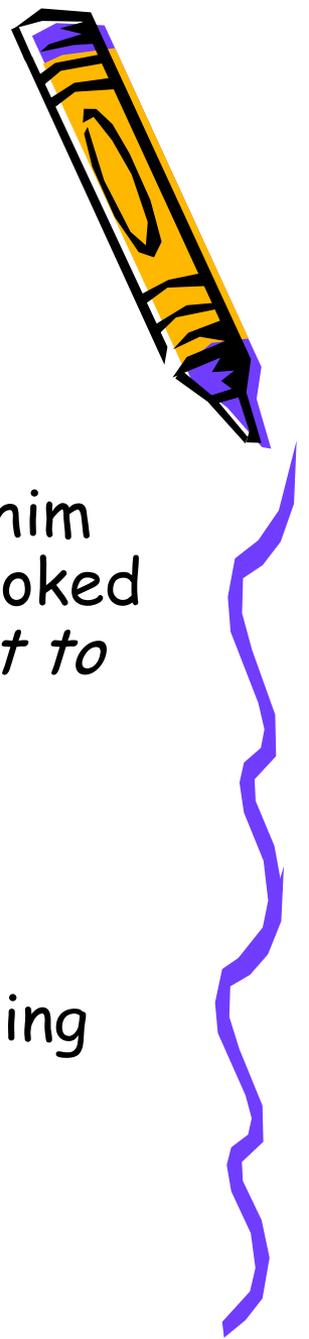




"But you put yourself in contact with *me*," said the woman. "If you think that that contact is not going to last awhile, you got another thought coming. When I get through with you, sir, you are going to remember Mrs. Luella Bates Washington Jones."

Sweat popped out on the boy's face and he began to struggle. Mrs. Jones stopped, jerked around in front of her, put a half nelson about his neck, and continued to drag him up the street. When she got to her door, she dragged the boy inside, down a hall, and into a large kitchenette-furnished room at the rear of the house. She switched on the light and left the door open. The boy could hear other roomers laughing and talking in the large house. Some of their doors were open, too, so he knew he and the woman were not alone. The woman still had him by the neck in the middle of her room.





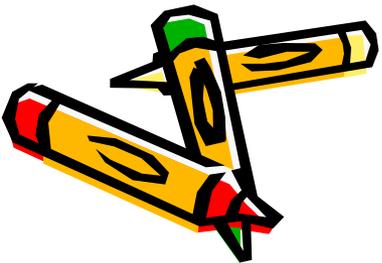
She said, "What is your name?"

"Roger," answered the boy.

"Then, Roger, you go to that sink and wash your face," said the woman, whereupon she turned him loose -- at last. Roger looked at the door -- looked at the woman -- looked at the door -- *and went to the sink.*

"let the water run until it gets warm," she said.
"Here's a clean towel."

"You gonna take me to Jail?" asked the boy, bending over the sink.



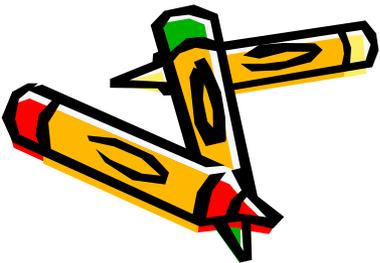


"Not with that face. I would not take you nowhere," said the woman. "here I am trying to get home to cook me a bite to eat, and you snatch my pocketbook! Maybe you ain't been to your supper either, late as it be. Have you?"

"There's nobody home at my house," said the boy.

"Then we'll eat," said the woman. "I believe you're hungry -- or been hungry -- to try to snatch my pocketbook!"

"I want a pair of blue suede shoes," said the boy.

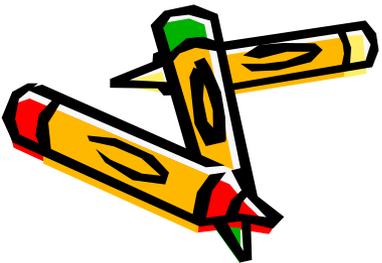




"Well, you didn't have to snatch *my* pocketbook to get some suede shoes," said Mrs. Luella Bates Washington Jones. "You could of asked me."

"Ma'am?"

The water dripping from his face, the boy looked at her. There was a long pause. A very long pause. After he had dried his face and not knowing what else to do, dried it again, the boy turned around, wondering what next. The door was open. He could make a dash for it down the hall. He could run, run, *run!*

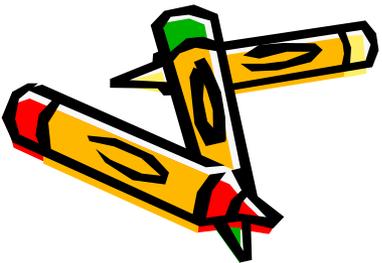


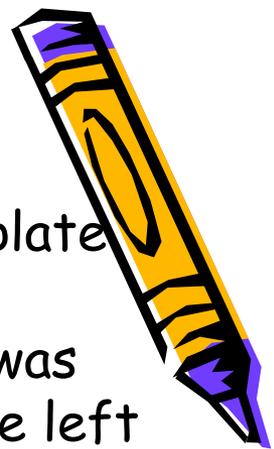


The woman was sitting on the day bed. After a while she said,
"I were young once and I wanted things I could not get."

There was another long pause. The boy's mouth opened. Then
he frowned, not knowing he frowned.

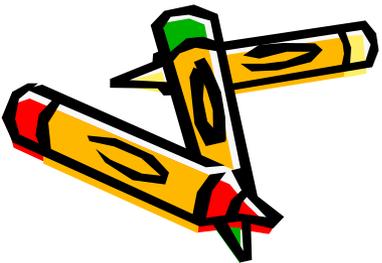
The woman said, "Um-hum! You thought I was going to say *but*
didn't you? You thought I was going to say, *but I didn't*
people's pocketbooks. Well, I wasn't going to say that."
Pause. Silence. "I have done things too, which I would not
tell you, son, neither tell God, if He didn't already know.
Everybody's got something in common. So you set down while
I fix us something to eat. You might run that comb through
your hair so you will look presentable.





In another corner of the room behind a screen was a gas plate and an icebox. Mrs. Jones got up and went behind the screen. The woman did not watch the boy to see if he was going to run now, nor did she watch her purse, which she left behind her on the day bed. But the boy took care to sit on the far side of the room, away from the purse, where he thought she could easily see him out of the corner of her eye if she wanted to. He did not trust the woman *not* to trust him. And he did not want to be mistrusted now.

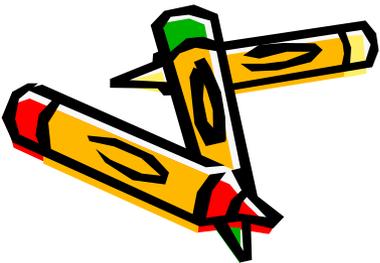
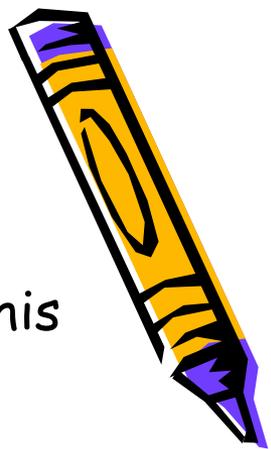
"Do you need somebody to go to the store," asked the boy, "maybe to get some milk or something?"



"Don't believe I do," said the woman, "unless you just want sweet milk yourself. I was going to make cocoa out of this canned milk I got here."

"That will be fine," said the boy.

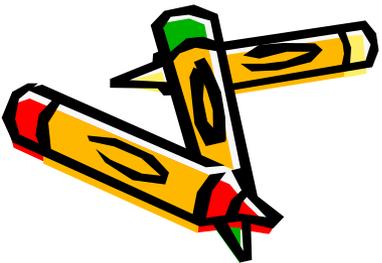
She heated some lima beans and ham she had in the icebox, made the cocoa, and set the table. The woman did not ask the boy anything about where he lived, or his folks, or anything else that would embarrass him. Instead, as they ate, she told him about her job in a hotel beauty shop that stayed open late, what the work was like, and how all kinds of women came in and out, blondes, redheads, and brunettes. Then she cut him a half of her ten-cent cake.





"Eat some more, son," she said.

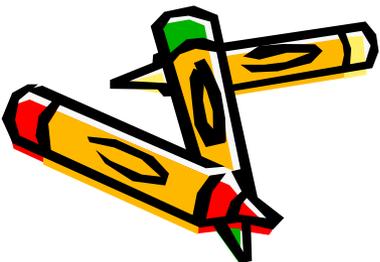
When they were finished eating, she got up and said, "Now here, take this ten dollars and buy yourself some blue suede shoes. And next time, do not make the mistake of latching onto *my* pocketbook *nor nobody else's* -- because shoes got by devilish ways will burn your feet. I got to get my rest now. But from here on in, son. I hope you will behave yourself."



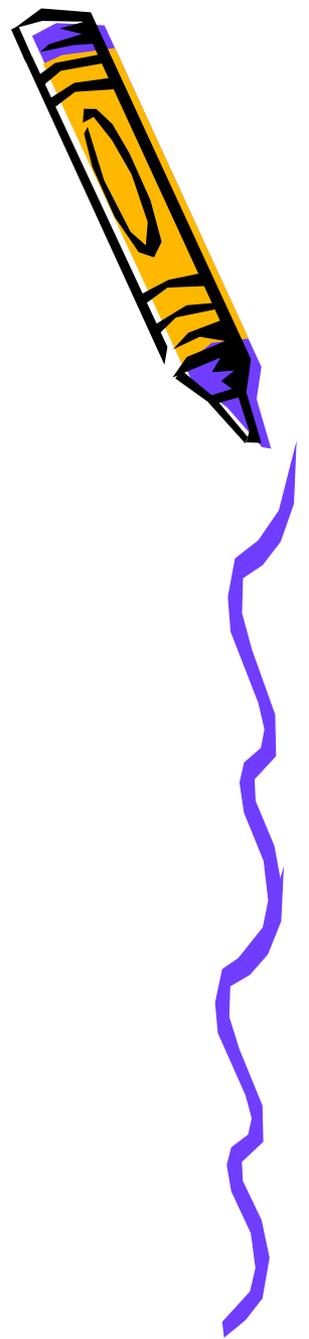


She led him down the hall to the front door and opened it. "Good night! Behave yourself, boy!" she said, looking out into the street as he went down the steps.

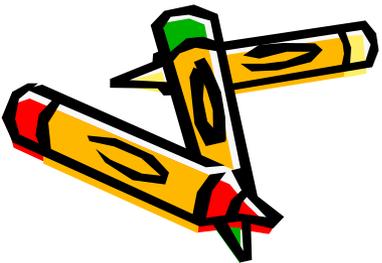
The boy wanted to say something other than, "Thank you, ma'am," to Mrs. Luella Bates Washington Jones, but although his lips moved, he couldn't even say that as he turned at the foot of the barren stoop and looked up at the large woman in the door. Then she shut the door.



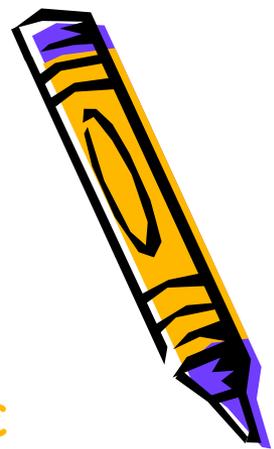
Literary Analysis Essay



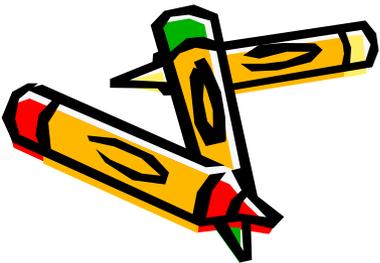
- Introduction
 - Title, Author, Character Setting
 - Very Brief Summary —include conflict
 - Character analysis thesis statement
 - Idea that weaves essay together
 - Transition to 2nd Paragraph



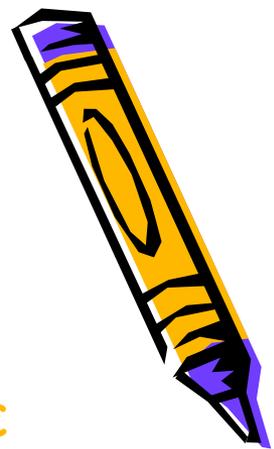
Body Paragraph 1



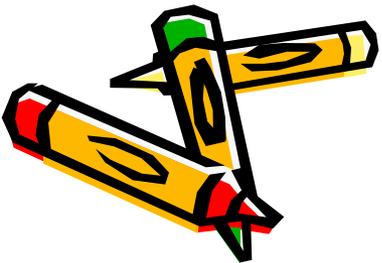
- Sentence 1—Inference about character/Topic sentence
- Sentence 2—Quote 1 that inspired inference
- Sentence 3 & 4—Justification of how the quote illustrates the inference
- Sentence 5—Transition + Quote 2 that inspired inference
- Sentence 6 & 7—Justification of how the quote illustrates the inference
- Sentence 8—Conclusion—restatement of inference and transition to inference #2



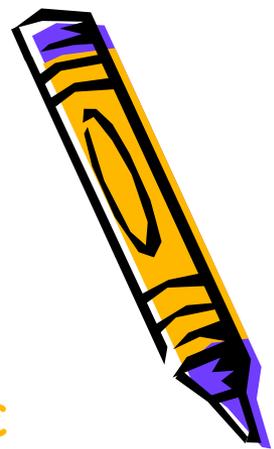
Body Paragraph 2



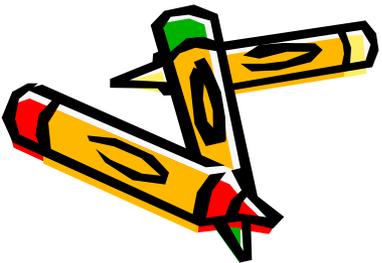
- Sentence 1—Inference about character/Topic sentence
- Sentence 2—Quote 1 that inspired inference
- Sentence 3 & 4—Justification of how the quote illustrates the inference
- Sentence 5—Transition + Quote 2 that inspired inference
- Sentence 6 & 7—Justification of how the quote illustrates the inference
- Sentence 8—Conclusion—restatement of inference & transition to inference #3



Body Paragraph 3

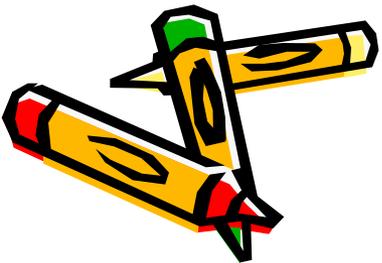
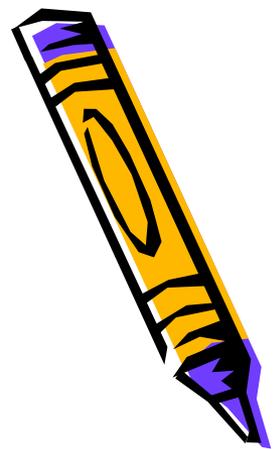


- Sentence 1—Inference about character/Topic sentence
- Sentence 2—Quote 1 that inspired inference
- Sentence 3 & 4—Justification of how the quote illustrates the inference
- Sentence 5—Transition + Quote 2 that inspired inference
- Sentence 6 & 7—Justification of how the quote illustrates the inference
- Sentence 8—Conclusion—restatement of inference



Conclusion Paragraph

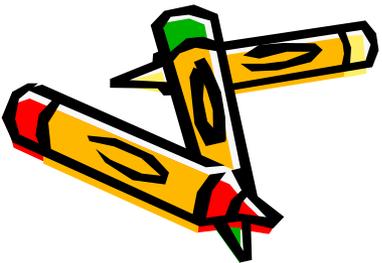
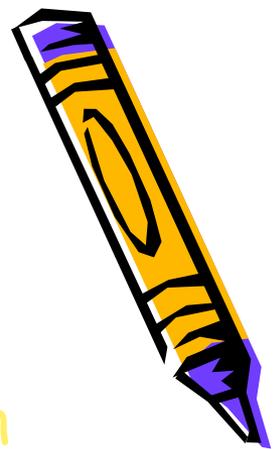
- Restate Thesis (in different words)
- How the character changes
- Commentary—on what the character learned from experiences in the story
- Concluding thought—insightful statement



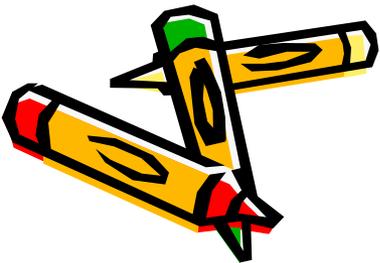
Character Analysis

Thank You Ma'am

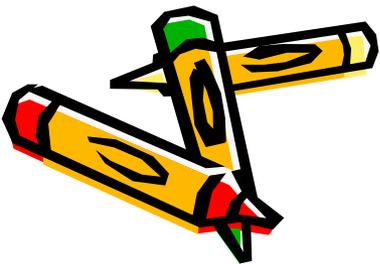
The story, "Thank You Ma'am" by Langston Hughes takes the reader on a mystifying encounter with a woman, Luella Bates Washington Jones, who was almost robbed. Instead of running away from her would-be purse snatcher, she confronted him and taught him a lesson he won't soon forget. Through her bravery, compassion, and desire for reconciliation Luella Bates was able to make a formidable impression on an adolescent street child, Roger.



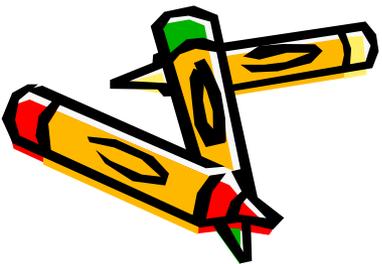
As the story begins, Ms. Jones shows tremendous bravery when her purse is snatched by Roger. Unfortunately for Roger, he stumbles in his attempt to steal the purse. "Then she reached down, picked the boy up by his shirt front, and shook him until his teeth rattled (pg.1)" Most people would be so shaken up by the experience of an attempted robbery, they would run away at the first opportunity, Ms. Jones didn't run. She courageously stays put and confronts her attacker despite the possibility of physical harm. Once she grabs him she asks, "Now ain't you ashamed of yourself? . . . What did you want to do it for? (pg.1)" Through her fear and rush of adrenaline, Ms. Jones wants her questions answered. She's not afraid to use physical intimidation to get the answers she desires. Ms. Jones's bravery and insistence on gaining information brings a change in her heart for the young boy, Roger.



As Ms. Jones gets to know more about Roger and his motives for robbery, she begins to build a bridge of compassion between herself and the boy. As Ms. Jones is questioning the boy, she notices his dirty face, "Ain't you got nobody to tell you to wash you face . . . Then it will be washed this evening (pg.2)". Through her questioning, Ms. Jones realizes that Roger is not cared for by an adult at home. She understands that he is left to take care of himself and know the pain of having to fend for oneself at such a young age. She tells him, "I were young once and wanted things I could not get (pg.3)". Instead of scolding the boy and telling him to get a job, she recalls her pain and feels a change in her heart for the boy knowing the sadness and struggle he must also endure. Knowing the pain of another human led Ms. Jones to understand Roger's motivation and caused her to remember her own youthful indiscretions.



Once Ms. Jones recalls the tinge of her own past actions, she wants to reconcile. Ms. Jones confesses to Roger, "I've done things too, which I would not tell you, son, neither tell God, if He didn't already know (pg.3)." She feels the guilt of past bad deeds. She knows she can't take them away, but perhaps she can take action to make up for those prior acts. As Ms. Jones is recalling her past actions, she does several surprising things, she no longer watches Roger, she leaves her purse in plain sight of him, feeds him dinner, and most surprisingly when Roger is leaving says, "Now here take this ten dollars and buy yourself some blue suede shoes (pg.4)". Ms. Jones gives him money to make up for past mistakes. Through this act, Ms. Jones hopes to influence Roger to find better ways to get what he desires and he also hopes it heals past guilt for poor choices in the past. Ms. Jones sends Roger on his way with much to consider as he goes to buy his new shoes.



The actions of Ms. Luella Bates Washington Jones may puzzle readers at first. Why, would a person who was almost robbed, end up giving her robber money? It is not the natural tendency in our eye-for-an-eye mentality of a world. Through Ms. Jones's puzzling actions, she helps the reader understand the pain of poverty, the desire to fit in, and the gift of compassion. Through taking the time to understand the motivation of "devilish ways", people can show compassion. This connection to others can lead to an opportunity to teach them wisdom of their own mistakes. If people took the opportunity to reach out to others compassionately, imagine the comfort people would feel knowing others have experienced their pain.

