

Elements of Story Analysis for _____

- (refer to elements of the story sheet as well – feel free to attach additional sheets to the ones outlined here; enhance with other methods outlined in the instructions for note taking: t-charts, venn diagrams etc.)

Title: _____ **Author:** _____ **Pages:** _____

- try to explain key quotations as you gather them, and always cite page references of quotations.

Narrative Structure

(point form, support with quotations and page/scene/dialogue references)

Exposition (intro to plot, setting, character):

Rising Action (events that lead to the *major* climax, includes **minor crises**):

Inciting Incident (introduction of central conflicts):

Major Climax (turning point in the novel – could be an event, an epiphany)

Dénouement (may include more minor crises – but generally an unravelling of the plot):

Resolution:

Reflections (I was impressed by...I noticed that...I wonder about...Some questions I have are...I don't understand...

I now understand why/how/what...Something I noticed/appreciate/don't appreciate/wonder about is...I predict...An interesting word/sentence/ thought is...This part of the story makes me feel...This reminds me of...I never thought...I was surprised by...**these may apply to other elements of the story)

Setting

Physical/Geographical (What geographical regions in the world does this story span? What are some natural features and what imagery is used to capture the nuances and details of that region?)

Chronology/Era: (clues: fashion, technology, dialogue):

Cultural, Socio-Economic: (What cultural/religious/subcultural context surrounds the tale? Who does/does not hold the power and how is it measured? How is wealth measured and who does/does not hold it?)

Conflict

Types of Conflict employed: 1) _____ vs. _____

2) _____ vs. _____ 3) _____ vs. _____

Dynamics of conflict (how is it introduced? How is it established/does it grow/does it get resolved in the story? What role does this conflict play in pushing the story forward?)

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

Reflection: (What connections does the conflict have with the theme of the story? What are readers to learn from the establishment/resolution of the conflict? How is this elements woven into the others – narr. Struct., character dev...)

Narrative Voice/Perspective

Types of perspective employed: 1) _____

2) _____

Narrator characteristics: [named/unnamed; adjectives describing personality; general tone or overall philosophy – pessimistic/optimistic; biased/unbiased – based on race/culture/class/sexuality) objective/subjective; what voices/scenes/perspectives are omitted? Highlighted?)

Reflection (How does the narrator affect your understanding of the story? Obfuscates? Clarifies? Guides? Draws reader in? Pushes readers away? Intimate vs. distant.

Thematic Message (universal truth or statement about life)

Motifs (recurring images which point to aspects of themes):

1.	2.	3.	4.
5.	6.	7.	8.

Evidence: (don't forget to cite page #s) and potential symbolism; meanings

1. _____

2. _____

Central Concepts (more general ideas - e.g., tumultuous/troubled family relationships)

Potential Themes: (more specific - e.g., substance addiction often leads to troubled family relationships)

Reflections: (lessons learned; contemporary connections to the contemporary world at present):

Authorial Style and Literary Devices (link to theme)

Poetic, figurative language (not already mentioned – personification, imagery; leave space to revisit this section when you have solidified a theme. Explain how the device helps develop the theme)

1. Metaphor/Simile:

2. **Imagery** (auditory/visual/olfactory/gustatory/tactile)

3. _____

4. _____

Rhetorical Devices and sentence structure (parallelism, anaphora, other nuances, shifts, changes)

5. _____

Vocabulary (denotative/connotative language, tone, sophistication level, dialect, colloquialisms, jargon; keep a list of definitions for your own use; describe the use of vocab overall here).

Reflection: (connect stylistic devices to other elements, particularly **theme**)

Character Development

Round/Flat; Protagonis/Antagonist; Tragic Hero; hero; villain; quest; use sociograms, family trees, t-charts to compare traits, character profiles;

Name (R/F)	Physical Descrip'n	Psychological/ Emotional/ Intellectual traits – adj.	Cited Evidence		
			Action	Speech/Thought	Hearsay
Name (R/F)	Physical Descrip'n	Psychological/ Emotional/	Action	Speech/Thought	Hearsay

		Intellectual traits – adj.			

Continue on another sheet....

Character relationships (bonds, ties, severed ties, deteriorating, strengthening)

Reflections (character x reminded me of..., y is detestable/amiable because..., z always seems to ... when..., I can(not) relate to a because ...; identify universal characters; connections to other elements?)
