**Questions for Literary Analysis: Year 3 and 4***(Please include both the questions and answers in your submitted assignment.)*

1. Name the title, author, genre:  
    *Drama, Fantasy, Historical Fiction, Horror, Humor, Legend, Mystery, Mythology, Poetry, Realistic Fiction Science Fiction,   
    Dystopian,Biography, Autobiography, Essay, Speech*Identify the primary conflict of the text   
    *(Man vs. Man, Man vs. Nature, Man vs. Society, Man vs. Self, and Man vs. Technology)*   
   Identify the subplot\* (if one exists)  
    **\*** a secondary plot that runs parallel to the main plot to add complexity to the story, and thereby increases tension  
   Also, Identify from which point of view/perspective the story is told:   
    *1st Person, 2nd Person; 3rd Person Objective; 3rd Person* [*Omniscient*](http://literarydevices.net/omniscient/)*; 3rd Person Limited* *(Explained below)*  
   1. Identify which of the archetypal situations are used in this text. Describe how one of the characters in the story fits the profile of an archetype: *(Archetypes give a piece of literature universal appeal. See below for a short list of common archetypes)*
2. Identify the antagonist. Provide a quote that describes the resolution of conflict that the antagonist resists, but the protagonist seeks.   
   Identify the protagonist and his/her primary character motivation: what motivates his primary actions. Provide evidence from the text in the form of a quote or paraphrase.   
   Identify if there is a “foil” character and what the foil highlights in the primary character.  
    **(Foil**: a secondary character who contrasts with a primary character (usually the protagonist) in order to highlight particular qualities of the   
    primary character. In some cases, a subplot can be used as a **foil** to the main plot.)
3. Describe how the author develops characterization\* of the antagonist or the protagonist.   
    \*the process by which the writer reveals the personality of a character. The author might use ***direct*** 
   1. ***characterization,*** by telling you what kid of person the character is ***explicitly: in a straight-forward manner*** .
   2. Also, the author may use ***indirect characterization***, by revealing what kind of person the character is through the
   3. character’s speech: including dialect , thoughts, feelings, actions, looks, and/or his/her effect on others.
4. Identify the tone: (attitude of the author) , the mood: (feeling of the story) and the primary [conflict](https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/conflict) in the text. Provide evidence from the text to support your answers.
5. What is the theme: central idea of the text? Identify one symbol that the author uses to develop his theme. Provide a quote or paraphrase of a scene to support your answer.
6. Find at least three words that the author chose for their connotations: scrawny instead of slender and explain how it is different than its denotation *(exact definition) Ex: The author chose the word “scrawny” to indicate that the character was thin in an unattractive way. This is the connotation of “scrawny”. The denotation of scrawny is, “*thin”.
7. Provide and explain an example in which one character or event influences another character.
8. Provide two examples of the author’s use of literary devices. *(Don’t choose the same ones every month.)*
9. Identify an example of a character who uses rhetoric: language designed to have a persuasive or impressive effect on its audience, but often regarded as lacking in sincerity or meaningful content. Provide a quote and an explanation of why the character used this rhetorical device.
   1. **Rhetorical devices:**

* **logos**: clear reasoning/logic
* **pathos**: emotional appeal
* **ethos:** establishing the expertise, knowledge moral character and history of the speaker

**List of Literary Devices**: More explanations and examples: <http://www.literarydevices.com/>

* **Allusion:**a brief and indirect reference to a previous works of literature or cultural reference that reader would be expected to understand, outside of the story. Ex: a “good Samaritan”
* **Analogy:** a similarity between like features of two things, on which a comparison may be based: *The heart and a pump.*
* **Anthropomorphism:** the representation of objects/animals as having human form

1. **Aside**: dialogue is spoken to audience but not heard by the other actors
2. **Denotation/Connotation**: The literal meaning of a word/ the implied meaning of a word (thin/scrawny)
3. **Hyperbole:** a big exaggeration: *I died of laughter.*
4. **Irony:** when what happens is not what is expected
5. **Motif:** any recurring element (symbol) that has symbolic significance in a story.
6. **Oxymoron:** two words with opposite meanings put together: *jumbo shrimp*
7. **Paradox**: A statement that seems contradictory or absurd but is actually true. *Ex: We must sometimes be cruel to be kind.*
8. **Parallel Structure/Parallelism:** the use of components in a sentence that are grammatically the same; or similar in their construction, sound, meaning or [meter](http://literarydevices.net/meter/).
9. **Rhyme**: words ending in the same sound
10. **Rhythm:** repetition of a pattern of sounds
11. **Satire:** the use of humor, irony, context of contemporary politics
12. **Stereotype:** an over-simplified depiction of a character so that the s/he is seen as part of a group
13. **Structure:** The way that the writer arranges the plot of a story. Look for: Repeated elements in action, gesture, dialogue, description, as well as shifts in direction, focus, time, place, etc.
14. **Tone:** attitude of the author towards the subject. Is it hopeful, pessimistic, dreary
15. **Understatement:** deliberately making a situation seem less important or serious to create irony. Ex: Talking of the shooting of Tom Robinson: "Seventeen holes in him. They didn't have to shoot him that much." *To Kill a Mockingbird*

## Types of Perspective

### First person perspective is written from the perspective of the author, often in autobiographical writings. In these writings, the main character narrates his/her story and uses first person “I” and “we.”

1. **Second Person Perspective** uses “you” perspective or a writer tells the story by using second person personal pronouns like “you or your.” *“You are a sculptor.”*
2. **Third Person Perspective**

* **Third Person Objective**– An impersonal recorder or neutral observer just narrates the facts or details to the readers without interpreting them.“It was a dark and stormy night; the rain fell in torrents, except at occasional intervals, when it was checked by a violent gust of wind which swept up the streets.”: From Edward George Bulwer-Lytton’s Paul Clifford,
* **Third Person**[**Omniscient**](http://literarydevices.net/omniscient/)– In third person omniscient, a narrator reports the facts as well as interprets and relates the thoughts of a character. In Nathaniel Hawthorne's *The Scarlet Letter*, for example, the story is told from several different characters' points-of-view. In addition, the narrator knows the thoughts, actions, and feelings of every character.
* **Third Person Limited**– In **third person limited** the narrator only knows the thoughts and feelings of one character. All characters are described using pronouns, such as 'they', 'he', and 'she'. However, one character is closely followed throughout the story, and it is typically a main character.

**List of Common Archetypes**

**1. The Hero** – In its simplest form, this character is the one ultimately who may fulfill a necessary task and who will restore fertility, harmony, and/or justice to a community.

**2. Young Person from the Provinces** – This hero is taken away as an infant or youth and raised by strangers. He or she later returns home as a stranger and able to recognize new problems and new solutions.

**3. The Initiates –** These are young heroes who, prior to the quest, must endure some training and ritual. They are usually innocent at this stage.

**4. Mentors –** These individuals serve as teachers or counselors to the initiates. Sometimes they work as role models and often serve as father or mother figure. They teach by example the skills necessary to survive the journey and quest.

**5. Hunting Group of Companions –** These loyal companions are willing to face any number of perils in order to be together.

**6. Loyal Retainers –** These individuals are like the noble sidekicks to the hero. Their duty is to protect the hero. Often the retainer reflects the hero’s nobility.

**7. Friendly Beast –**These animals assist the hero and reflect that nature is on the hero’s side.

**8. The Devil Figure –** This character represents evil incarnate. He or she may offer worldly goods, fame, or knowledge to the protagonist in exchange for possession of the soul or integrity. This figure’s main aim is to oppose the hero in his or her quest.

**9. The Evil Figure with the Ultimately Good Heart –** This redeemable devil figure: or servant to the devil figure is saved by the hero’s nobility or good heart.

**10. The Scapegoat –** An animal or more usually a human whose death, often in a public ceremony, excuses some taint or sin that has been visited upon the community or who takes the blame of everything bad that happens e.g. Snowball in [Orwell](http://literarydevices.net/tag/orwell/)’s *Animal Farm* etc. or Tom Robinson in *To Kill a Mockingbird*

**11. The Outcast –** This figure is banished from a community for some crime: real or imagined . The outcast is usually destined to become a wanderer.

**12. The Earth Mother –** This character is symbolic of fulfillment, abundance, and fertility; offers spiritual and emotional nourishment to those who she contacts; often depicted in earth colors, with large breasts and hips.

**13. The Temptress –** Characterized by sensuous beauty, she is one whose physical attraction may bring about the hero’s downfall.

**14. The Platonic Ideal –** This source of inspiration often is a physical and spiritual ideal for whom the hero has an intellectual rather than physical attraction.

**15. The Unfaithful Wife –** This woman, married to a man she sees as dull or distant, is attracted to a more virile or interesting man.

**16. The Damsel in Distress –** This vulnerable woman must be rescued by the hero. She also may be used as a trap, by an evil figure, to ensnare the hero.

**17. The Star-Crossed Lovers –** These two character are engaged in a love affair that is fated to end in tragedy for one or both due to the disapproval of society, friends, family, or the gods.

**18. The Creature of Nightmare –** This monster, physical or abstract, is summoned from the deepest, darkest parts of the human psyche to threaten the lives of the hero/heroine. Often it is a perversion or desecration of the human body.

**19. The Innocent Youth**: He or she is inexperienced with many weaknesses and seeks safety with others but others like him/her because of the trust he or she shows in other people. Usually, the experience of coming of age comes in the later parts of the narratives

**20. The Villain:** A character whose main function is to go to any extent to oppose the hero or whom the hero must annihilate in order to bring justice

**21. Doppelganger:** It is a duplicate or shadow of a character that represents the evil side of his personality such as Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde etc.

**Archetypal Situations:** more here: <http://www.hccfl.edu/media/724354/archetypesforliteraryanalysis.pdf>

1. **The Journey:** The main character takes a journey that may be physical or emotional to understand his or her personality and the nature of the world.
2. **The Initiation:** The main character undergoes experiences that lead him towards maturity.
3. **Good Versus Evil:** It represents the clash of forces that represent goodness with those that represent evil.
4. **The Fall:** The main character falls from grace in consequence of his or her own action

(continued on the next page)

**List of Common symbols (or archetypes) in literature:**

**Colors**

1. Black: darkness – chaos, mystery, the unknown, before existence, death, the unconscious, evil
2. Red – blood, sacrifice; violent passion, disorder, sunrise, birth, fire, emotion, wounds, death, sentiment, mother, Mars, the note C, anger, excitement, heat, physical stimulation
3. Green – hope, growth, envy, Earth, fertility, sensation, vegetation, death, water, nature, sympathy, adaptability, growth, Jupiter and Venus, the note G, envy
4. White: light – purity, peace, innocence, goodness, Spirit, morality, creative force, the direction East, spiritual thought
5. Orange – fire, pride, ambition, egoism, Venus, the note D
6. Blue – clear sky, the day, the sea, height, depth, heaven, religious feeling, devotion, innocence, truth, spirituality, Jupiter, the note F, physical soothing and cooling
7. Violet – water, nostalgia, memory, advanced spirituality, Neptune, the note B
8. Gold – Majesty, sun, wealth, corn: life dependency , truth
9. Silver – Moon, wealth

**Numbers**

1. Three – the Trinity: Father, Son, Holy Ghost ; Mind, Body, Spirit, Birth, Life, Death
2. Four – Mankind: four limbs , four elements, four seasons
3. Six – devil, evil
4. Seven – Divinity: 3 + Mankind: 4 = relationship between man and God, seven deadly sins, seven days of week, seven days to create the world, seven stages of civilization, seven colors of the rainbow, seven gifts of Holy Spirit.

**Shapes**

1. Oval – woman, passivity
2. Triangle – communication, between heaven and earth, fire, the number 3, trinity, aspiration, movement upward, return to origins, sight**,** light
3. Square – pluralism, earth, firmness, stability, construction, material solidity, the number four
4. Rectangle – the most rational, most secure
5. Cross – the Tree of life, axis of the world, struggle, martyrdom, orientation in space
6. Circle – Heaven, intellect, thought, sun, the number two, unity, perfection, eternity, oneness, celestial realm, hearing, sound
7. Spiral – the evolution of the universe, orbit, growth, deepening, cosmic motion, relationship between unity and multiplicity, macrocosm, breath, spirit, water

**Nature**

1. Air – activity, creativity, breath, light, freedom: liberty , movement
2. Ascent – height, transcendence, inward journey, increasing intensity
3. Center – thought, unity, timelessness, spacelessness, paradise, creator, infinity,
4. Descent – unconscious, potentialities of being, animal nature
5. Duality – Yin-Yang, opposites, complements, positive-negative, male-female, life-death
6. Earth – passive, feminine, receptive, solid
7. Fire – the ability to transform, love, life, health, control, sun, God, passion, spiritual energy, regeneration
8. Lake – mystery, depth, unconscious
9. Crescent moon – change, transition
10. Mountain – height, mass, loftiness, center of the world, ambition, goals
11. Valley – depression, low-points, evil, unknown
12. Sun – Hero, son of Heaven, knowledge, the Divine eye, fire, life force, creative-guiding force, brightness, splendor, active awakening, healing, resurrection, ultimate wholeness
13. Water – passive, feminine
14. Rivers/Streams – life force, life cycle
15. Stars – guidance
16. Wind – Holy Spirit, life, messenger
17. Ice/Snow – coldness, barrenness
18. Clouds/Mist – mystery, sacred
19. Rain – life giver
20. Steam – transformation to the Holy Spirit
21. Cave – feminine
22. Lightning – intuition, inspiration
23. Tree – where we learn, tree of life, tree of knowledge
24. Forest – evil, lost, fear

**Objects**

1. Feathers – lightness, speed
2. Shadow – our dark side, evil, devil
3. Masks – concealment
4. Boats/Rafts – safe passage
5. Bridge – change, transformation
6. Right hand – rectitude, correctness
7. Left hand – deviousness
8. Feet – stability, freedom
9. Skeleton – mortality
10. Heart – love, emotions
11. Hourglass – the passage of time