

## Literary Analysis

### What is Literary Analysis and why is it important?

With Literary Analysis, students identify key elements of a story such as the setting, characters, and plot and think critically about a story or book.

### How can I use Literary Analysis with my students?

To help students perform Literary Analysis, create a Literary Analysis Guide (Beach, 1991), which contains questions or prompts that encourage students to think critically about a story or book. The guide helps students identify the main ideas in a text and assess the quality of the writing. Questions and prompts should be appropriate for a particular literary selection and for the age of the students. Have students answer one or more questions on the guide after reading and then invite them discuss their ideas in small groups or as a class. An example of a Literary Analysis Guide follows.

1) Authors use many techniques to introduce the reader to a story. Did the author use an effective technique to capture your attention?

2) Authors use images in the story to foreshadow coming events. Describe how an event was foreshadowed.

3) How does the main character change from the beginning of the book to the end?

4) What is the theme of the book?

5) Whom would you tell to read this book? Why?



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Literary Analysis Guide

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