

Close-Reading/Literary Analysis Practice

Deconstructing Children’s Literature

For the next few days you will be working at your table group to analyze a children’s book through the lens of the “Big 6” ideas that we will focus on in AP Lit.

Task:

- Each table group will be assigned 1 of the children’s books below to read and analyze.
 - Terrible Things by Eve Bunting
 - The Spider and the Fly by Tony Diterlizzi
 - Faithful Elephants by Yukio Tsuchiya
 - The Butter Battle Book by Dr. Seuss
 - The Monster at the End of this Book by Jon Stone
 - The Velveteen Rabbit by Margary Williams
 - The Giving Tree by Shel Silverstein
 - Fox by Margaret Wild
- After reading the book together, you will apply the “Big 6” ideas to the text (use the graphic organizer below for notes).
- Then, you will design a creative poster that showcases each of the ideas.
 - Along with the “Big 6” ideas (labeled and explicated), Posters should include:
 - Title/author/image that depicts the overall idea of the story
 - Short summary (2-4 sentences)
 - Imagery/Symbolism (3 total)
 - draw the image/label/explain purpose in relation to the text
 - Theme statement.
 - Write a theme statement for the story that includes “because”. Avoid bumper sticker clichés.
 - Remember, theme is the universal truth/moral of the story. It should NOT be specific to that story alone, but should also apply to real-world issues.
 - Pivotal Quote
 - Choose the quote that you feel is central to the idea/message created by the author and copy it onto the poster (cite) quotes
 - Connections
 - Connect the story to another literary work. Be sure to be specific and create a strong claim/assertion for the similarities you see.
 - Connect the story to something else (TV, movie, etc.)

Use the chart below for notes as you discuss.

<p>Literary Argumentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • what is the argument that is being made by the artist? How do you know (cite evidence) • Craft a thesis statement (defensible claim about the song and line of reasoning WHY) 	
<p>Narration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify/describe speaker (what do we know/what is being concealed?) • What is the point of view? • Identify details/diction that reveal’s speaker’s perspective (3) 	
<p>Structure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there a plot or story being told? • How is the song structured? • What is the conflict? • Why is it important/how does it motivate/move the plot along? 	
<p>Figurative Language:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify 3 examples of figurative language (cite and label) and explain the function (what is the effect on the reader/listener) 	

<p>Character:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do we know about speaker (perspective/motives?) • Does the speaker change or not? What is the function of this? • What complexities are revealed? • What choices are made? Are they positive or negative? 	
<p>Setting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the setting (identify details that convey/reveal the setting)? • What is the function...how does it affect our understanding of the big idea? • What is the relationship between the speaker and the setting? Does it change? 	

Student Samples