

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

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

Student Samples