

Say/Mean/Matter Form

*Say/Mean/Matter (SMM) is the name for a strategy that helps students question the text, search for deeper meanings, and make connections between the immediate scene and the work as a whole. Effective S/M/M show a **LINE OF REASONING** between the evidence and the commentary that should move from a deeper analysis and growing level of **SOPHISTICATED**.*

Say	Mean	Matter
<p>The quote itself. Copy it exactly and in full. Cite if/when appropriate</p>	<p>Explains the scene in more depth – NOT A SUMMARY. Show your understanding of the scene on a deeper level, almost as if you are able to translate the emotional importance of the scene.</p> <p>ONLY FOCUS ON THIS PARTICULAR SCENE IN THE NOVEL AND NOT BEYOND IT.</p> <p>What is being depicted in this scene?</p>	<p>Analyze the quote in terms of the meaning, themes, and the thesis. Why is it vital to the novel? What does it mean in terms of the “big ideas?” How does it support your argument? (revisit/reinvent the thesis)</p> <p>Note any stylistic devices (elements of voice, similes, metaphors, personification, symbols, alliteration, etc.)</p> <p>How is meaning created? (literary elements, poetic devices, structure, etc)</p>
<p>Example: - Moreover, Esperanza watches Marin in the evenings, interpreting what her dreamy gestures suggest as she ponders, “Marin, under the streetlight, dancing by herself, is singing the same song somewhere. I know. Is waiting for a car to stop, a star to fall, someone to change her life” (27).</p>	<p>Example: Esperanza understands that Marin believes her existence will change when someone comes into her life. That someone will be a man. Esperanza says she “knows” what it is to dream of changing her life and escaping Mango Street</p>	<p>The classic falling star that dreamers wish upon symbolizes Marin’s dependency on something outside herself to bring change. That something is distant, nearly impossible, and likely fruitless. Like most women on Mango Street - Sally, Rafaela, Minerva – Marin represents a hopeful yet hopeless cycle of poverty, violence, and despair. All are trapped in relationships and circumstances they want desperately to but can’t escape.</p>

For CiTR Inclass Essay Rewrite

- Write your claim above the table
- Choose **THREE** quotes that support your claim, enter in the “say” column. Remember, for in class essays you will **PARAPHRASE**
 - Make sure you include a **Transitional Word or Phrase** before your evidence
 - Make sure you include a **Lead-in** before your paraphrase to set the context
- Using the example above, enter the Mean. Your **COMMENTARY** will explain this **scene as it supports your claim**.
 - In the Matter section, move to the work as a whole and to how is meaning created (rhetoric).

Thesis Claim:

Say	Mean	Matter
1 Trans:		
2 Trans:		
3. Trans:		