**The Pearl Theme Essay**

A literary analysis is not just a summary of a literary work. Instead, it is an **analysis** of the text. Analyze the text by examining one theme of *The Pearl*. The theme is another way of saying “What is the moral of the story?” or “What is the major lesson to be learned?”

**Choose ONE theme. Possible themes:**

* Importance of family
* Destructiveness of greed
* Class struggle and oppression of the poor
* Danger of sin
* Temptation of materialism
* Individual vs. society
* Family and suffering
* Good vs. evil
* Another theme of your choice

**Use these questions to begin brainstorming:**

* Why is this theme important?
* What passages from the text support this theme?
* How do the characters support or not support this theme?

DO NOT give me a summary of the story

DO NOT use 1st or 2nd person

DO NOT give strictly a description of a character

DO Use MLA Formatting (put any quotes from the novella in quotation marks and cite the page number following the quotes)

            Ex: “Put your quote here” (17). This means that the quote was on page 17.

**The Writing Process:**

1. Choose a theme you’d like to write about.
   1. Select a topic that has sufficient supporting evidence. A writer should make sure to include specific details to support the topic.
2. Brainstorm parts of the text that support your theme
3. Write your thesis statement
   1. Should state your theme and including 3 main points
   2. Should be last sentence of the first paragraph
4. Find at least three specific examples from the text that support your theme
   1. Find 3 direct quotes or examples from the text
   2. Does not need to be dialogue- can be spoken by narrator
   3. The passage should show something meaningful and tie into your theme
   4. For example, if a theme was destructiveness of greed, this could be part of an essay with proper citation:

*Juana sees early on that the pearl is changing her husband. “‘Kino,’ she said huskily, ‘I am afraid. A man can be killed. Let us throw the pearl back into the sea’” (57). Juana is begging her husband to throw the pearl back so that her family may be safe from harm. She sees that the pearl is changing her husband and she is worried for her family’s safety…*

1. Write the first draft
2. Revise your work- make sure it follows the five-paragraph essay format
3. Edit and proofread

**Your topic and thesis statement is due Thursday, March 27, 2013.**

**Your essay is due Wednesday, April 2.**

**Theme Literary Analysis Essay Rubric**

**Content**

\_\_\_\_ / 5 Attention-grabbing introduction (NO “I” or “YOU”)

\_\_\_\_/ 5 Clear Thesis

\_\_\_\_ / 10 Body paragraph #1: topic sentence, example, quote from book, analysis (5-7 sentences)

\_\_\_\_ / 10 Body paragraph #2: topic sentence, example, quote from book, analysis (5-7 sentences)

\_\_\_\_ / 10 Body paragraph #3: topic sentence, example, quote from book, analysis (5-7 sentences)

\_\_\_\_ / 5 Summarizes main points, ends with thoughtful conclusion (4-6 sentences)

\_\_\_\_/ 45 Total Content

**Mechanics**

\_\_\_\_ /5 Proper MLA format, heading, title placement, page numbering, 1” margins

\_\_\_\_/5 Length (**two full pages**, typed and double-spaced)

\_\_\_\_ /10 Spelling, punctuation, grammar

\_\_\_\_/5 3rd person point of view, present tense

\_\_\_\_ / 25 Total Mechanics

\_\_\_\_ /70 points total