**To Kill a Mockingbird Theme Literature Analysis**

A literary analysis is not just a summary of a literary work. Instead, it is an **analysis** of the text. The purpose of a literary analysis is to demonstrate why the author used specific ideas, word choices, or structures to convey his or her message. You analyze the text by examining literary devices, word choices, or writing structures the author uses within the work.

In this assignment, you will be analyzing one of the major themes from TKAM. Choose one of the themes below.

**Possible themes:**

Courage

Loyalty

Racial prejudice

Justice/Injustice

Social class prejudice

Education

Loss of innocence

Coexistence of good and evil

Ignorance

**Questions to think about when choosing a theme:**

What is the major idea or theme of the work? How does the author express this theme? Is there a greater meaning to the details given? How do the characters’ moods affect the theme? What allusions are made throughout the work? Are there repeating patterns or symbols? What does the title say about the theme?

**Your 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. Find at least **three** specific examples from the text that support your theme
4. Write a thesis statement including your three main points (thesis is due on Wednesday)
5. Develop an explanation and analysis of each of your examples
6. Write the first draft
7. Revise your work- make sure it follows the five-paragraph essay format
8. Edit and proofread

**OUTLINE**

The purpose of this essay is for you to come up with a thesis, to find examples from the text that support your thesis, to organize a five-paragraph essay, and to present your thoughts in a clear, well-thought out manner.

**Your topic, thesis, and outline is due Wednesday, February 12.**

**Your paper is due Tuesday, February 18.**

1. Introduction (5-7 sentences)
   1. Attention-grabbing beginning
   2. Explanation of theme you chose
   3. Thesis should be last sentence of first paragraph
2. Body of the Essay
   1. Paragraph 1: (5-7 sentences)
      1. Topic sentence
      2. Example number one
      3. At least one quote from the text used as supporting evidence (page #)
      4. Analysis/ explanation of quote and how it applies to the theme
   2. Paragraph 2: (5-7 sentences)
      1. Topic sentence
      2. Example number one
      3. At least one quote from the text used as supporting evidence (page #)
      4. Analysis/ explanation of quote and how it applies to the theme
   3. Paragraph 3: (5-7 sentences)
      1. Topic sentence
      2. Example number one
      3. At least one quote from the text used as supporting evidence (page #)
      4. Analysis/ explanation of quote and how it applies to the theme
3. Conclusion (5-7 sentences)
   1. Restate thesis and summarize main points
   2. Leave reader with something to think about

**Theme Literary Analysis Essay Rubric**

Content

\_\_\_\_ / 4 Attention-grabbing introduction

\_\_\_\_ / 5 Clear thesis including three main points (4-6 sentences)

\_\_\_\_ / 7 Body paragraph #1: topic sentence, example, direct quotation, analysis (5-7 sentences)

\_\_\_\_ / 7 Body paragraph #2: topic sentence, example, direct quotation, analysis (5-7 sentences)

\_\_\_\_ / 7 Body paragraph #3: topic sentence, example, direct quotation, analysis (5-7 sentences)

\_\_\_\_ / 5 Conclusion restates thesis, summarizes main points, ends with thoughtful conclusion (4-6)

**\_\_\_\_/ 35 Total Content**

Mechanics

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

\_\_\_\_ /10 Spelling/Punctuation/Grammar/one point of view (no “I,” “you,” etc.)

**\_\_\_\_ / 15 Total Mechanics**

Completed Outline

**\_\_\_\_ /10 Total Outline**

**\_\_\_\_/5 Thesis**

**\_\_\_\_ /65 points total**