

Paper Analysis Questions

Theatre 110

When writing your analysis, determine the basic design of the poem or story by considering the *who*, *what*, *when*, *where*, and *why* of the dramatic situation.

- What is being dramatized? What conflicts or themes does the poem or story present, address, or question? (In your paper, actually state "The conflict is..." or "The theme is...") Some conflicts include man vs. man, man vs. himself, man vs. society, man vs. nature, man vs. the supernatural. State which type of conflict is evident, and then elaborate on why this is the conflict. Specify the theme that is being presented.
- Who is the speaker (persona)? Define and describe the speaker using at least two sentences. Is the speaker omniscient, or does he/she have limited omniscience? What voice does he/she use (1st, 2nd, 3rd)? What does the speaker say? Who is the audience? Are other characters involved? If so, describe them using at least two sentences.
- When does the action in the text occur? What is the date and/or time of day? When does the speaker recount the events? (Is the speaker actually sharing what is happening as the events unfold, or is he/she looking back on something?)
- Where is the speaker located? Is the speaker a part of the scene, or is he/she/it removed from the scene? Describe the physical location of the speaker, as well as the physical location of the setting depicted in the text.
- Why does the speaker feel compelled to speak at this moment? What is his/her motivation?
- Lastly, please discuss the performance skills you used in order to bring your poem/story to life. What vocal and physical tools did you use? Be specific. Were you successful? What would you have done differently?

In your essay, please include an introductory paragraph which tells your reader (me) what you will be addressing. The body of your paper should touch upon all of the questions enumerated above. Try to incorporate strong transitional sentences as you move from topic to topic so that your paper has a sense of cohesiveness and direction. In your

closing statement, please highlight some of your major findings in regards to the 5 W's.

This paper should be double-spaced, using 10 or 12 point font. Please use one-inch margins and place your name, the name of the class, and date in the upper left-hand corner. No cover page is needed, and no folders. For the poetry assignment, please attach a copy of the poem to the back of your paper, and for the prose assignment, please include a copy of the text. Remember to carefully proofread your work! The paper should reflect your very best writing. Don't wait until the night before it is due to craft this analysis paper! These papers need to represent college-level work, and so if you need help with writing, please visit the Writing Center or Learning Center which are located in Pollak Library.