

Five-Part Reading Tool

Prof. Scanlan, ENG 1101

CATEGORY OF ANALYSIS	QUESTIONS RAISED BY THE TEXT
1. Character	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Whether the character changes or grows-Why a character acts in a certain way-How does gender, ethnicity, or class affect the character-Should readers approve or disapprove of a character's actions
2. Setting	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-How does time and place matter-What does the description of place symbolize-How does setting affect characters
3. Plot Structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-What are the main turning points in the story-How does a subplot relate to the main plot-What does the ending mean
4. Point of View (Narration)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Who is the narrator-What type of narration is used-Can the narrator be believed/trusted-Whose values are represented in the narration-How are reader's sympathies manipulated
5. Themes and Symbols and Metaphors	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-What does the story say about war, economics, love, poverty...-How does the story illuminate a historical or current issue-Is the story about the development of an artist, the change from childhood to adulthood, etc-Are symbolic images and/or references used, such as water, fire, doves, blood, roses, rain, sunlight-Can you find comparison of unlike things