

Five-Part Reading Tool

Prof. Scanlan

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