

INDEPENDENT READING #2: GENDER STUDIES

LITERARY ANALYSIS ESSAY

INSTRUCTIONS: *Choose one of the prompts below and answer it using the novel you chose for Independent Reading #2. Follow the format and structure of the literary analysis essay we have been studying all week long. Make sure to provide textual evidence – either direct quotes or specific details – in your composition. Our goal here is to practice writing a detailed, analytical essay under pressure with an academic voice and command of language and syntax (sentence structure).*

- A. Select a novel in which a character experiences such a rift and becomes cut off from “home,” whether that home is the character’s birthplace, family, homeland, or other special place. Then write an essay in which you analyze how the character’s experience with exile is both alienating and enriching, and how this experience illuminates the meaning of the work as a whole.

- B. Frequently a work of literature will concern itself with a major transformation in a character. This transformation could be actual or symbolic. Choose a full-length work and write a well-organized essay in which you discuss the nature of the transformation and its relationship to character and theme.

- C. Novel and plays often include scenes of weddings, funerals, parties, and other social occasions. Such scenes may reveal the values of the characters and the society in which they live. Select a novel or play that includes such a scene and, in a focused essay, discuss the contribution the scene makes to the meaning of the work as a whole.

- D. Many novels and plays that focus upon the marriage of a couple included a second couple that helps to define the central characters. Write a well-centered essay in which you discuss how the secondary couple illuminates the central characters of the work.

- E. Choose a character from a work of recognized literary merit and write an essay in which you (a) briefly describe the standards of the fictional society in which the character exists and (b) show how the character is affected by and responds to those standards. In your essay do not merely summarize the plot.

Use the back of this paper to organize your composition.

When you finish, staple this paper to the front of your composition.