

Category 1 – Understanding and Analysis Across Genres

TECHNICAL AND FOREIGN WORDS

etymology: origin (history) of a word; meaning of a technical or academic word can often be determined from Latin, Greek, or other linguistic roots
Example: *circum* (around) + *spect* (look) → *circumspect* (cautious, careful, discreet, watchful)
affix: word part placed before (prefix) or after (suffix) a base word; changes word's meaning in predictable way
Example: Prefix *im-* means *not* and *perceptible* means *able to be sensed or recognizable*, so *imperceptible* means *not recognizable*.
 Historical developments introduced foreign words/phrases into English.
Examples: In 1985, Gorbachev's *glasnost* (Russian: "openness") policy increased government transparency; came to imply *freedom of speech*. In reaction to mass production during 1960s, *avant-garde* (French: "advance guard") was widely used to describe *innovative* cultural works. From 18th century, *coup d'état* (French: "strike of state") meant *sudden overthrow of government*; also means *a sudden advantage over a rival*.

DETERMINING DENOTATION, CONNOTATION, AND ETYMOLOGY

dictionary entry: shows spelling, pronunciation, part of speech, etymology, and meaning(s); **denotation(s)** [direct or literal meaning(s)] usually shown before **connotation(s)** [implied meaning(s), associations]
Example: **hackneyed** \ˈhək•nēd\ *adj.* [Middle English *hakeney*] 1. out, let out, 2. trite, banal, or worn-out due to frequent use or overuse
 Use **context clues** (nearby words or sentences that provide help in determining word's meaning) to determine meaning of an unfamiliar word.
 • words such as *because*, *such as*, *also*, *like*, *unlike*, and *relationships* (e.g., cause and effect, example, comparison, contrast)
 • an **analogy** (type of comparison) can be analyzed to infer meaning
Example: These political slogans are as **hackneyed** as tennis pro blaming his own mistakes on his opponent.
analysis of hackneyed: Famous tennis pro blames his own mistakes on his opponent. He hits his own rackets after mis-hits. Thus, the slogans are trite and worn-out.
 • sentence structure can help determine the word's meaning.
 A **thesaurus** lists synonyms and a **glossary** gives definitions and pronunciations.
Example: thesaurus entry **hackneyed**: banal, commonplace, worn-out

TIME PERIODS, THEMES, AND POINTS OF VIEW

genre: groups texts with common characteristics (e.g., literary nonfiction, poetry, drama); **subgenre**: smaller category within a genre
theme: text's underlying message or main idea; **implicit** thoughts, actions, or images; may have similarities and differences expressed in different time periods will have similarities and differences
viewpoint: author's perspective or attitude regarding a subject
inference: reader's conclusion about something that is not stated in the text(s), such as **author's viewpoint**; to **infer**, a reader combines **text evidence** (facts, examples, or quotations) with **real world evidence** (facts, examples, or quotations) to draw conclusions
Example: Both Marlowe's King's speech and Shakespeare's *Measure for Measure*, set in 16th century Italy, explore the theme of **repression**. Though both texts hold digressing prior to revenge, **viewpoint** is the main difference. Marlowe's speech counsels the king to be **repressed** by wine, to not drink. Shakespeare's *Measure for Measure* is a play of bitterness and injustice. The king's speech "... on the high and noble throne of justice, ... shaking his Jew's head, ... rest nor tranquility, ... mistreats his subjects, ... pursues revenge and fails, ...". Shakespeare's *Measure for Measure* is a play of bitterness and injustice. The king's speech "... on the high and noble throne of justice, ... shaking his Jew's head, ... rest nor tranquility, ... mistreats his subjects, ... pursues revenge and fails, ...". Shakespeare's *Measure for Measure* is a play of bitterness and injustice. The king's speech "... on the high and noble throne of justice, ... shaking his Jew's head, ... rest nor tranquility, ... mistreats his subjects, ... pursues revenge and fails, ...".

Category 2 – Analyzing Texts

ARCHETYPES, CHARACTERS, MESSAGE, AND SETTING

Archetype: Use in Mythic, Classical, and Traditional Literature
hero's journey: linear (often quest or series of trials that transform protagonist) or circular (brings protagonist back to starting point)
tragic flaw: character's weakness, such as pride, that leads to downfall
helper types: mother figure, teacher, mentor, healer, angel
figurative language: expression that describes an ordinary thing in a different, non-literal way; varies by historical and cultural context
Example: An Australian may use "beyond the black stump" to describe something far away. The phrase was not common until the 20th century.

PROSODY AND GRAPHIC ELEMENTS IN POETRY

prosody: poem's structure of rhythm and meter; set patterns are defined:
Element Description
foot: repeated pattern of one (i) and unstressed (u) syllables
Examples: iamb (u/i); trochee (i/u); dactyl (i/u/u); anapest (u/u/i)
meter: determined by number of feet and number of syllables per foot
Example: T. Hardy's "The Man He Killed" uses iambic pentameter (iambic pentameter) and rhyme (assign a letter for each foot and end of each line and pair them)
Example: The next two lines reveal the speaker's inner conflict: "I shot an arrow into the air, / It fell so lightly on my ear, / And I thought: 'What a wonderful chance / This is, for me to be here.'"
graphic elements: poem's structural elements (e.g., stanza, line, meter)
Example: E. E. Cummings' poetry often breaks traditional conventions of capitalization, word placement, line length/positioning, and word usage to convey meaning and emotion. His experimental style effectively conveys both meaning and emotion.

CHARACTER TYPES AND CONTRIBUTION TO PLOT IN DRAMA

drama: literary form intended to be performed, as a play or opera
character: literary figure (e.g., character, event/plot, or setting)
protagonist: main character; often the catalyst and the third casket holds the key to the treasure.
antagonist: opposes the protagonist; the third casket holds the key to the treasure.
subplot: secondary plot; often a subplot that develops the theme(s)
Example: Shakespeare uses the motif of cross-dressed women to develop the theme of reaction to oppression. By wisely donning men's clothing, Jessica and Portia gain freedom and power. Jessica, as a page, escapes Shylock's house. Portia, as a lawyer, foils Shylock's revenge.

CHARACTER TYPES AND CONTRIBUTION TO PLOT IN FICTION

character: literary figure (e.g., character, event/plot, or setting)
protagonist: main character; often the catalyst and the third casket holds the key to the treasure.
antagonist: opposes the protagonist; the third casket holds the key to the treasure.
subplot: secondary plot; often a subplot that develops the theme(s)
Example: Shakespeare uses the motif of cross-dressed women to develop the theme of reaction to oppression. By wisely donning men's clothing, Jessica and Portia gain freedom and power. Jessica, as a page, escapes Shylock's house. Portia, as a lawyer, foils Shylock's revenge.



scene: specific time event; usually a single setting; often contains dialogue; analyzed from several angles to determine contribution to plot

Scene	Analysis
Setting	Where and when does the scene take place? Has the author used an archetype, symbol, or motif? Is the event in chronological order within the plot, or is it a flashback?
Character Development	Who is at the scene? What do you learn about the major and minor characters? Are any characters transformed?
Structure	What happened? Is there a beginning, middle, and end?
Contribution to Plot's Success	Why is the scene included? Is it part of plot's exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, or resolution? How does the scene develop (or resolve) the central conflict?

CHARACTERS' MORAL DILEMMAS IN FICTION ACROSS CULTURES

character: person or creature in a story; **static** (unchanging) or **dynamic** (capable of change); examine **dialogue** (conversation), thoughts, traits, actions, and interactions; characters often face moral dilemmas
Examples: In Chinese culture, filial piety (respect for parents/ancestors) is expected of children. A moral dilemma results when a character's duty to family conflicts with a desire for personal freedom. In Europe, a character's duty to family conflicts with a desire for personal freedom.

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