WRITING YOUR Literary Analysis ESSAY FOR
A TALE OF TWO CITIES, “Book II”

Step 1: Find a main literary tool the author utilizes in the story to examine and show how this lifts up the major themes or message in the story. DEVELOP A QUESTION TO ANSWER ABOUT THE LITERARY DEVICE AND HOW IT CONTRIBUTES TO THE MAJOR THEMES IN THE BOOK.

Literary tools you may choose to examine (in BOOK II of A Tale of Two Cities):

- **Figurative language**—metaphor, simile, etc.—this language is used to characterize the sensibility and understanding of characters as well as to establish the significance of theme and tone.

- **Motif**—any element, subject, idea or concept that is constantly present through the entire body of literature. Using a motif refers to the repetition of a specific theme dominating the literary work. Motifs are very noticeable and play a significant role in defining the nature of the story, the course of events and the very fabric of the literary piece.

- **Symbolism**—something said but meant to stand for something else. Allegory is also used within this category—things which stand for something on a one-by-one basis.

- **Setting**—is the context in which all of the actions take place. What is the time period, the location, the time of day, the season, the weather, the type of room or building? What is the general mood, and who is present? All of these elements can reflect on the story’s events, and though the setting of a story tends to be less conspicuous than plot and character, setting still colors everything that’s said and done within its context.

- **Character**—refers to the qualities assigned to the individual figures in the plot. Consider why the author assigns certain qualities to a character or characters and how any such qualities might relate to your topic.

- **Allusion**—Does the author use any allusions—references to a past literary source or event in history. Authors will use many Biblical allusions. Adam—would bring qualities of Adam from the Bible, without having to expressly state them, just by using the name infers or alludes to the Biblical story of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden.

Step 2: Now that you have figured out which literary tool or element you would like to examine in your paper, take the tool and find at least 1-3 examples in each chapter of Book II.

✔ IT’S BETTER IF YOU DO THIS WHILE YOU ARE READING.

READING and ANALYSIS SCHEDULE SUGGESTION:

**BOOK II**

- FEB. 10 – CHPT 3-4
- FEB. 11 – CHPT 4-5
- FEB. 12 – CHPT 6-7

*(MAKE SURE YOU HAVE AT LEAST 1-2 PAGES OF QUOTES/ANALYSIS)*

- FEB. 13 – CHPT 8-9
- FEB. 14 – CHPT 10-11
- FEB. 15 – CHPT 12-13

*(MAKE SURE YOU HAVE AT LEAST 3-4 PAGES OF QUOTES/ANALYSIS)*

- FEB. 17 – CHPT 14-15
- FEB. 18 – CHPT 16-17
- FEB. 19 – CHPT 18-19

*(MAKE SURE YOU HAVE AT LEAST 5-6 PAGES OF QUOTES/ANALYSIS)*

- FEB. 21 – CHPT 20-21
- FEB. 22 – CHPT 22-24

*(MAKE SURE YOU HAVE AT LEAST 7-8 PAGES OF QUOTES/ANALYSIS)*
AS YOU READ THE NOVEL, FLAG THESE AND START TYPING THE QUOTES IN YOUR WORD DOCUMENT

✓ (CITE THE PAGE NUMBERS AS YOU GO).
✓ After each quote, write your initial reaction to the quote.
  o WHY do you think the author used this particular strategy to create WHATEVER particular MESSAGE or theme you are seeing in the text? What is your opinion on this? Answering this question is PART of the ANALYTICAL process.
  o THE other part of the analysis, an extension of the analysis would be defining words you don’t understand, looking up multiple meanings and connotations of words, complex meanings and making those connections to the text, and WRITING those connections down on the paper. DISCUSS these connections on paper.

Step 3: Write an EXTENDED outline using THE information from above:

I. INTRODUCTORY PARAGRAPH
   a. Hook – something that draws your reader into the story that connects them to the concept of your paper
   b. Background information informing the reader about the purpose of the paper
   c. THESIS – ANSWER THE QUESTION YOU DEVELOPED – “How does (main literary tool) in (insert name of novel) by (name of author) the (insert the major theme that is shown in the course of BOOK II).
      i. Example question: How does the use of allusion in A Tale of Two Cities by Charles Dickens exemplify the theme of retribution throughout the course of Book II?
         1. ANSWER THESIS SUGGESTION ONE: In A Tale of Two Cities “Book II”, Charles Dickens uses historical allusion to create a realistic timeline to the atrocities carried out in the name of justice during the French Revolution; however, through The Vengeance the warped sense of justice ultimately came in the form of retribution.
         2. SAMPLE THESIS TWO: Dickens’ portrayal of the French Revolution and the love triangle depends mainly on his use of figurative language and how he equates the animalistic images to the primal savagery inherent in the revolutionaries.

• Write a thesis statement for your paper—Based on the evidence that relates to your topic—and what you anticipate you might say about those pieces of evidence—come up with a working thesis. Use the example below to plug in your own words:

• Thesis statement:
  SAMPLE Introduction paragraph - Write the introduction paragraph using the format below to plug in elements of your story: Zora Neale Hurston’s “Sweat” is a short story illustrating the plight of a Southern Christian black woman in an abusive relationship with her husband. At the story’s heart is a masterful depiction of the protagonist, a woman who after many years of abuse finally refuses to subject herself to her philandering husband’s cruelty. Hurston achieves the greater theme of “Sweat,” the triumph of the oppressed, through her use of three basic Southern literary themes: folklore, oppression, and religion. A brief inspection of these three basic themes will reveal how “Sweat” achieves its inspiring effect.

II. BODY PARAGRAPH 1
   a. TOPIC SENTENCE – defines the purpose of your first body paragraph, specifically answering the question about your thesis, proving your thesis is correct.
      i. FILL IN THE BLANKS:
         1. Dickens uses ____________ to (do what/explain) ______________ about the __________ (an aspect of your thesis).
2. THEN CUT/PASTE YOUR FIRST QUOTES YOU HIGHLIGHTED INTO YOUR PAPER.

3. THEN CUT/PASTE THE EXPLANATION YOU PROVIDED RIGHT BELOW. (CITE) (ADD THE CITATION TO YOUR BIBLIOGRAPHY PAGE FOR A TALE OF TWO CITIES. YOU WILL ONLY HAVE TO DO THIS ONCE).

4. THEN CUT/PASTE THE RESEARCH YOU LEARNED WITH EVIDENCE (CITE) (GO AHEAD AND START YOUR BIBLIOGRAPHY PAGE NOW AS WELL).

5. REPEAT STEPS 2-4 AS NEEDED TO PROVE YOUR FIRST TOPIC POINT

III. BODY PARAGRAPH II - Repeat as needed

IV. BODY PARAGRAPH III - Repeat as needed

V. BODY PARAGRAPH IV - Repeat as needed

VI. Conclusion paragraph
   a. Rephrase thesis, but draw conclusions based on the evidence provided in your paper.
   b. WRITE A BRIEF summation of what you said in your topic sentences of your paper. (DO NOT INTRODUCE ANY NEW IDEAS)
   c. END with a universal thought or concept that unites the paper and pulls it together, connecting it by hopefully bringing the reader (memorably) back to the beginning, full circle.
   d. Example: Hurston masterfully utilizes three basic Southern literary themes to illustrate the plight of a woman in an abusive relationship in the 1920’s: folklore, oppression, and religion. The combination of the three themes utilized by Hurston in her short story “Sweat” bring about a much greater theme of the story—the triumph of the oppressed. Women are still being oppressed today and may be inspired to overcome their oppression after reading this inspirational work by Hurston.

Step 4: PUT YOUR PAPER IN FINAL DRAFT FORMAT – SAVE AS, FINAL DRAFT
   TAKE IT OUT of outline FORMAT, and leave just the essay
   ADD TRANSITIONS WHERE NECESSARY
   BLEND QUOTES (DO NOT LEAVE QUOTES IN ISOLATION)

Step 8: Revise—Read and revise for accuracy. Ensure you have supported your thesis statement.

Step 9: Edit—Check and edit your paper for spelling and grammatical errors.

Step 10: FINAL DRAFT DUE NO LATER THAN FEB. 27 at 8:00 a.m.
   ✔ HAVE AT LEAST TWO PEOPLE PROOF/EDIT THE PAPER, and HAVE EACH PERSON SIGN OFF ON THE PAPER
   ✔ THEN UPLOAD THE CHANGED FINAL DRAFT TO TURNITIN.COM
   ✔ *TURN IN THE EDITED/SIGNED ROUGH DRAFT ONLY TO MRS. SHORT THE DAY AFTER THE FINAL COPY IS DUE TO TURNITIN.COM.

FINAL DUE DATE - NO LATER THAN FEB. 27, 8AM
UPLOADED TO TURNITIN.COM

Figure out your e-mail, password BEFORE the due date!