

Summer Reading Assignment

College Transition Grade 10: Crazy Loco by David Rice

Choose **TWO** literary elements to discuss in a response to the novel. Your response must contain textual evidence that supports the explanation of these elements and their importance to the novel. You are required to write a minimum of 1 page, double spaced typed, 12 point (Arial, Times New Roman or Calibri) approximately 350 words). This assignment is **due on September 10, 2021**, but you may turn it in beforehand.

Choose TWO of the following literary elements to discuss:

1. Theme
2. Setting
3. Cultural connections
4. Characters
5. Conflict (internal/external)
6. Point of View
7. Mood
8. Language

EXAMPLE Provided Below:

Information used from PrepScholar article: "The 9 Literary Elements You'll Find In Every Story"

Obviously, in order to read a book, you need to understand the language it's written in. But language can also be an important tool in understanding the meaning of a book, too. For instance, writers can combine languages to help readers better understand the characters, setting, or even tone. Here's an example of how Cherrie Moraga combines English and Spanish in her play, *Heroes and Saints*: Look into your children's faces. They tell you the truth. They are our future. Pero no tendremos ningún futuro si seguimos siendo víctimas.

Moraga's play is about the plight of Hispanic migrant workers in the United States. By combining English and Spanish throughout the play, Moraga helps readers understand her characters and their culture better.

While a story can have an overarching mood, it's more likely that the mood changes from scene to scene depending on what the writer is trying to convey. For example, the overall mood of a play like *Romeo and Juliet* may be tragic, but that doesn't mean there aren't funny, lighthearted moments in certain scenes.

Thinking about mood when you read literature is a great way to figure out how an author wants readers to feel about certain ideas, messages, and themes. These lines from "Still I Rise" by Maya Angelou are a good example of how mood impacts an idea:

You may shoot me with your words,
You may cut me with your eyes,
You may kill me with your hatefulness,
But still, like air, I'll rise.

What are the emotions present in this passage? The first three lines are full of anger, bitterness, and violence, which helps readers understand that the speaker of the poem has been terribly mistreated. But despite that, the last line is full of hope. This helps Angelou show readers how she won't let others' actions—even terrible ones—hold her back.

In conclusion the author uses mood and language to help the reader understand the purpose and the emotions that the characters encounter throughout the stories told.