Literary Analysis

C = Character

S = Setting

S = Structure

N = Narration

F = Figurative Language

L = Literary Argumentation

Character

**How important is the character to the work's principal action?*

**What is the characters' outstanding traits? Draw conclusions about their qualities and strengths.*

**How do their actions reveal their qualities? Is the character creating events or just responding to them?*

**What do the author's descriptions tell us about the character?*

**How do the character's dramatic statements and thoughts reveal what they are like?*

**Is the character flat or round? Do they undergo change or do they stay the same?*

**If the character is a stereotype, to what type do they belong?*

**Is the character lifelike or unreal? Believable or unbelievable?*

Setting

**Are the visual descriptions of the setting vague or extensive?*

**How important to plot and character are colors, times of day, weather, light and darkness, seasons of the year, etc.?*

**What connections, if any, are apparent between locations and characters? Does the setting bring characters together or separate them?*

**How does the characters' economic position affect what happens to them? Are they well off or poor? How does this affect their attitudes and actions?*

**What cultural, religious, and political conditions are brought out in the story?*

**Do characters respect or mistreat the environment? If there is an environmental connection, how central is it to the story?*

Structure

**How can you describe the conflict or conflicts you see in the story? How does the story's action grow out of the major conflict?*

**If the conflict stems from contrasting ideas or values, what are these and how are they brought out?*

**What problems do the major characters face? How do they deal with these problems?*

**How do the major characters achieve or not achieve their goals? What obstacles do they overcome? What obstacles overcome them?*

**At the end, are the major characters successful or not? Happy or unhappy? Satisfied or dissatisfied? Changed or unchanged? Enlightened or ignorant? How has the resolution of the major conflict produced these results?*

Narration

**Is the narrator/speaker identifiable? What are the narrator's qualifications as an observer? How much of the story seems to result from the imaginative or creative powers of the narrator?*

**To what degree is the narrator involved in the action and how reliable is the speaker/narrator?*

**How does the narrator perceive the time of the actions? If the predominant tense is the past, what relationship, if any, does the narrator establish between the past and present?*

**How much dialogue is used in the story? What is your perception of the story's events as result of the use of dialogue?*

**What tense is used predominantly throughout the story? What is the effect of the use of this tense? Does the story use a mixture of tenses? What is the effect of this mixture?*

**To what extent does the point of view make the work interesting and effective?*

Figurative Language

**What figures of speech does the work contain and how can you recognize them? Are they signaled by a word or phrase, or are they more extensively detailed?*

**How obvious are the figures of speech? How obscure? What kind of effort is needed to understand them in context?*

**How does the figurative language broaden, deepen, or otherwise assist in making the ideas more forceful?*

**What effect does the figurative language have on the tone of the work? On your overall understanding and appreciation of it?*

Literary Argumentation

**What ideas did you discover in the work? How do you discover them? (Through action, character depiction, scenes, etc.)*

**How balanced are the ideas? If a particular idea is strongly presented, what conditions and qualifications are also presented (if any?) What contradictory ideas are also presented?*

**Do the ideas you discovered apply only to the characters in the work or are they applicable to general conditions of life?*

**Which characters in their own right represent or embody ideas?*

**What ideas seem particularly important in the work? Why? Are they asserted directly, indirectly, dramatically, ironically?*

**What value or values are embodied in the idea? Of what importance are the values to the work's meaning?*