



**Rosarian Academy Middle School Summer Assignment
Grades 5-8**

Incoming **5th Graders** Summer Reading Assignment. Read the following two books:

Stone Fox

Author John Reynold Gardiner

Shiloh

Author Phyllis Reynolds Naylor

Incoming **6th Graders** Summer Reading Assignment. Read the following two books:

Crash

Author Jerry Spinelli

The War That Saved My Life

Author Kimberly Brubaker Bradley

Incoming **7th Graders** Summer Reading Assignment. Read the following two books:

Hatchet

Author Gary Paulsen

Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry

Author Mildred D. Taylor

Incoming **8th Graders** Summer Reading Assignment. Read the following two books:

The Young Traveler's Gift

Author Andy Andrews

The Watson's Go To Birmingham Author Christopher Paul Curtis

Choose one book from your summer reading list and complete a literary analysis paper using the guidelines below.

The paper is due on Friday, September, September 06, 2019.

All papers should be typed.

Use the MLA Format template in Google Docs.

The Works Cited page should reflect the novel you wrote about in your literary analysis paper.

Use Easybib to cite this information correctly. <http://www.easybib.com/>

This paper will be turned in to your English teacher.

You will take a multiple choice and short response assessment on the other novel when you return from summer vacation, on Friday, September 06, 2019 in Literature class.

While you are reading your novels you should take notes to address both topics in each novel. This will prepare you for writing the literary analysis paper and the back to school assessment. Use the rubric as a guide to ensure you have addressed all parts of the paper.



Literary Analysis Paper Guidelines:

1) Choose and focus on one of the following topics:

Choice One - Character Change or Characters Changes

- Choose one character who changed in 3 different ways.
- **or**
- Choose 3 characters who each experienced a notable change.

Choice Two - 3 Themes

- Choose 3 themes that the author taught throughout the story.

2) Come up with a strong thesis statement that you can prove.

Example: Throughout my essay, I will provide textual evidence that throughout this novel the author was teaching the following themes, _____, _____, and _____.

Example: After reading _____, I will prove how the antagonist experienced three notable changes.

Example: In the novel _____, three characters experienced a variety of changes.

3) Gather Textual Evidence!

- Collect material from the text to answer or support your question.
- Use the following sentence starters to cite evidence.
 - For example,
 - For instance,
 - According to (title of text/book)...
 - The author points out that ...
- Explain the evidence and how it connects to your thesis.
 - As a result of this...
 - This evidence shows/suggests ...
 - It is apparent that ...
 - It can be concluded that ...

Name _____ Grade _____ Period _____

Rubric: Rosarian Academy Summer Assignment Literary Analysis Paper

Introduction	Included	Not Included
Grabber	_____	_____
Thesis Statement- 3 Themes/Character changes	_____	_____
Transitional Sentence	_____	_____
3-4 Sentences	_____	_____

Body Paragraph 1	Included	Not Included
Main Idea Sentence- Theme#1/Character #1	_____	_____
2 Pieces of Evidence	_____	_____
Sentence Variety	_____	_____
8-10 Sentences	_____	_____

Body Paragraph 2	Included	Not Included
Main Idea Sentence- Theme#2/Character #2	_____	_____
2 Pieces of Evidence	_____	_____
Sentence Variety	_____	_____
8-10 Sentences	_____	_____

Body Paragraph 3	Included	Not Included
Main Idea Sentence- Theme#3/Character #3	_____	_____
2 Pieces of Evidence	_____	_____
Sentence Variety	_____	_____
8-10 Sentences	_____	_____

Conclusion	Included	Not Included
Thesis Restated Creatively	_____	_____
Provides Closure	_____	_____
Personal Reflection	_____	_____
5-6 Sentences	_____	_____

Technique essay total _____ /100 = _____

Spelling Errors	—	_____
Capitalization Errors	—	_____
Grammatical Errors	—	_____
Punctuation Errors	—	_____
Indent Errors	—	_____
Final Essay Total		_____

***Grammatical errors such as run-on sentences and fragments will be counted as a 3 point reduction.**

Jude Valdov

Ms. Weaver

English

06 September 2019

Sample 1 - Literary Analysis - A Land Remembered Volume 1

During my 4th grade year, I had the extreme pleasure of reading, *A Land Remembered Volume 1*. Our class was challenged with completing a literary analysis to highlight the theme that was showcased in this literary masterpiece. Throughout my essay, I will provide textual evidence to show that the author, Patrick Smith, was teaching the theme of man vs. nature through his vividly detailed character's experiences. Follow me to discover how this theme was brilliantly woven throughout the novel to teach the reader all about the struggles that human beings face when dealing with some of the harsh realities of nature.

During *A Land Remembered Volume 1*, the theme of man vs. nature is shown very early when Tobias, the farmer, has to leave his home in Georgia to move to the wilderness of Florida to start a new life. For example, when he moved to the unsettled region of Florida the scrubland resists almost all of Tobias's efforts to take root. The reader could see evidence of this when Tobias struggles to establish a home for his family. Another example of this conflict with nature is seen in the day to day struggle this family had just trying to feed themselves. This family had to conquer weather conditions that destroyed vegetables and animals that were proved very difficult to catch. These struggles showed the constant struggle that humans have when dealing with nature's unpredictable elements.

Another part of the novel illustrates the hardships that the MacIvey's faced in the early days of the family's settlement. For instance, the homes that they live in are shielded from the outdoor elements merely by cypress poles and palmetto leaves. Due to the weak building materials, the characters were not protected from

the harsh weather conditions, insects, and curious animals. Another significant event happens when the family eventually builds more suitable housing, and that is even destroyed. As a result, this forces the family to move further south into even more unsettled wilderness. The author points this struggle out with nature when the family has to encounter swamps and jungle-like forests as the search for a new place to settle. As a reader you can feel the frustration the characters feel when they cannot control, “Mother Nature!”

The theme of the characters and animals struggle with nature is evident during the disastrous cattle drives. During these drives, the animals and humans experienced many hardships. Humans experienced deadly encounters with bears and wildlife in the unsettled territory. Destructive swarms of mosquitoes attacked these families. In addition, to all of this turmoil, floods took both human and animal life. The struggles that these characters endure when they are subject to nature’s elements showcase the theme of man vs. nature. The reader also experiences the tragic loss of animal life due to some of these natural disasters. This novel really brought this theme to life and made it real for the reader. As a result, it made me have more compassion for people who have to live through terrible storms such as hurricanes, floods, and tornadoes.

After my analysis of this novel, I felt that it was important to dissect the meaning of this theme. In today’s world of modern convenience, it is easy to lose sight of what the early settlers experienced in rural territories. Mother Nature is a powerful force and encounters with it can sometimes be deadly. By providing textual evidence to support this theme of man’s hardships with nature, it helped me gain a new respect for these characters. After reading this novel I would highly recommend reading *A Land Remembered Volume 1* because it really teaches some powerful life lessons that we all need to learn.

Works Cited

Gardiner, John Reynolds. *Stone Fox*. Manitoba Education, Media Production Services Unit, 2008.

Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds. *Shiloh*. Atheneum, 1991.

Smith, Patrick D. *A Land Remembered, Volume 1*. Pineapple Press, 2001.

Katie Segerdahl

Ms. Weaver

English

06 September 2019

Sample 2 - Literary Analysis - Shiloh/Stone Fox

Over the summer I was asked to complete a literary analysis on one of the books that I read and I chose to analyze _____. Throughout my essay, I will provide textual evidence that throughout this novel the author was teaching the following themes,

_____ , _____

and _____. Follow me to discover how these themes were brilliantly woven through the story to teach the reader these important lessons.

The theme of _____ was shown when

_____. This shows that

_____.

The reader could see evidence of this lesson when _____

_____. Another

example in the novel was when _____

_____.

The author shows us that _____

Both of these excerpts from the story support that one of the main themes in this story was ____

_____.

Another significant theme that was present in the story was _____.

The author point this out when _____

This part of the story shows the importance of this message. One other piece of evidence that can support the theme of _____ is when _____

_____. This

illustrated that the character was aware _____

_____. These two parts of the story support the lesson that was being shown to the reader throughout this novel.

In my opinion the most crucial theme that this piece of literature taught the reader was _____ because I feel that it conveys the most important lesson for people to understand. This theme was introduced through _____

_____. As the story went on the reader could see evidence of this theme again when _____

_____. The author was showing us that sometimes in life _____

_____. After my analysis of this novel, I felt that it was important to dissect the meaning of these themes. By providing textual evidence to support these themes in the story, it helped me read the text closely and gain new perspectives as a reader. I would highly recommend reading _____

_____ because it really teaches some powerful life lessons that we all need to hear.

Works Cited

Gardiner, John Reynolds. *Stone Fox*. Manitoba Education, Media Production Services Unit, 2008.

Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds. *Shiloh*. Atheneum Children'S Books, 2016.