

Analysing Fiction and Poetry



Plot

- * How long did the story take?
- * Did the events happen in the order we are told about them in the story?
- * Why do you think the writer chose to tell us about events in this order?
- * Are there some parts of the story that happen in a short time but take a long time to describe?
- * Are there some parts of the story that happen over a long period but are told very quickly?
- * Can you identify the different complications in this story?
- * Which event provides the story's climax?
- * How is the story resolved?

Setting

- * Where did this story take place?
- * Is the setting really important to the story or could it have happened anywhere?
- * Was the setting for this story familiar or unfamiliar to you?
- * Did you get a really clear picture of where this story was set?
- * Do any words or phrases help you to imagine the place where the story was set?
- * Do any words or phrases provide an indication of the time when this story is taking place?
- * Does the setting have any effect on the characters' behaviour?
- * Compare and contrast different settings in stories
- * Does the film version match how you imagined the one in the story?

Point of View

- * Who is telling this story?
- * How do you know who is telling the story?
- * Is the story told in the first or third person?
- * Do you think the story would feel different if told in the first/third person?
- * Who do you feel closest to in this story? Can you say why?
- * Through whose eyes do you think you are seeing this story?
- * When you were reading, did you feel you were part of the story or did you feel you were an observer? Why?
- * How do you think another character might view the events in this story?

Character

- * Which character did you feel closest to in this story? Why?
- * Which character did you find most interesting? Why?
- * Did you dislike any of the characters in this story? Why?
- * Were you reminded of anyone you know by the characters in this story?
- * Do any words or phrases help to build a picture of this character?
- * Do you learn about the character from their appearance, what they say or what they do?
- * Did you learn about the character from the way in which other characters responded to him/her?
- * Did your opinion of the character change while you were reading?

Subject and Theme

(trials and forfeits, good over evil, weak or strong, wise over foolish, overcoming fear, secrets, social, moral or cultural issues, dilemmas etc.)

- * Can you suggest some words to summarise what this story means to you?
- * Does this story remind you of any personal experience/something that has happened to you?
- * Does this story have a message? Do you know of any other stories that have a similar message?

Style

- * Was there anything you particularly liked or disliked about the way in which this story was told?
- * How did the author try to capture your interest in the first four lines of this story?
- * Which words or phrases have been used to develop an atmosphere of suspense/mystery?
- * Are any words or phrases repeated? What effect does this create?
- * Compare the way in which different authors write dialogue
- * Does the author tell you what the character is thinking or do you have to work this out from other clues and hints?
- * Can you tell from the first paragraph what kind of story we are reading? How?

Poetry

Form - rhyme:

- * Do you hear any repeating patterns in this poem?
- * Can you predict what word the poet might have used here?

Form - rhythm:

- * Can you hear any patterns in this poem when we clap the rhythm?
- * Can you predict the rhythm of the last line if I clap the first three lines?

Figurative language:

- * Describe/draw the pictures that the poem creates in your mind
- * Find examples of simile/metaphor
- * Find examples of alliteration/personification
- * Describe the effect

Poetry cont.

Language - word play:

- * Do you notice anything special or unusual about the words the poet has used?
- * Are there any words that could mean two things?

Language - vocabulary:

- * Are there any words or phrases that you particularly like?
- * What do you feel when you read this poem? Sad? Angry?
- * Are there any words or phrases that stick in your mind?
- * Has the poet used any words that we no longer use?