

**Literary Essay purpose: Determine the theme of a story and support the theme using textual evidence from the story.**

Focus: You must focus your paper around the prompt. Clearly state your theme. Make sure all evidence connects back to your theme statement.

Organization: Make sure that your ideas are organized. Use paragraphing and transition words so that your reader can follow the development of your argument.

Development: Include specific evidence from the text to prove that your theme statement is correct! Make sure to draw connections between plot and characters and theme.

Language: Proofread for spelling, punctuation, and capitalization mistakes. Look for run-ons and sentence fragments. Try to include varied sentence structure. Include strong, grade appropriate vocabulary words.

	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
Focus	Creative way of addressing the prompt Sophisticated thesis statement, including an debatable theme statement	All aspects of the prompt are addressed. Clear and well written thesis statement includes debatable theme statement	Prompt is addressed, but not in depth. Introduces debatable theme statement	Some attention is focused around the prompt Theme statement is weak	Barely focused around the prompt No theme statement included
Organization	Introduction is skillfully written, including purposeful summary of the text Thoroughly developed ideas, using evidence from the text to support theme Conclusion draws meaningful connections to the theme Strong use of transition words Ideas are organized in a purposeful way, from beginning to end	Introduction includes a concise summary of the text Evidence from the text is used to fully support theme Conclusion connects back to the theme Transition words help the flow of the paper Ideas are presented in a logical way, easy to follow	Introduction attempts to include a summary of the text Some evidence is used to support theme Conclusion only partially addresses the theme Some transition words are used Organization of ideas is attempted	Introduction is flawed and the summary is weak Minimal body paragraphs, with little textual evidence Weak conclusion Limited transition words Ideas are not organized	Lacking an introduction Fails to summarize text No textual evidence Conclusion is missing No transition words used Ideas are scattered and unfocused
Development	Uses substantial evidence to support theme thoroughly Strong use of textual evidence ties theme into character and plot development	Well-chosen textual evidence supports theme. Connections are made between the theme and plot and character development	Weak use of textual evidence. Limited connections made between the theme and plot and character development	Minimal use of textual evidence to support theme. Very little connection between theme and plot and character development	No use of textual evidence to support theme No connections made between theme and plot and character development
Language	Purposeful use of varied sentence structure Little to no errors Strong and sophisticated word choice	Correct and varied sentence structure Few minor mistakes Strong, grade appropriate word choice	Use of some varied sentence structures Some errors found throughout the paper	Basic word choice, numerous errors cause some confusion	Grammar and vocabulary choices affect the ability to understand your paper

16 = 4 (100%)      12 = 3.0 (75%)      8 = 2.0 (50%)      4 = 1 (25%)  
 15 = 3.8 (95%)      11 = 2.8 (70%)      7 = 1.8 (45%)      3 = 0.8 (20%)  
 14 = 3.5 (88%)      10 = 2.5 (63%)      6 = 1.5 (38%)      2 = 0.5 (13%)  
 13 = 3.3 (83%)      9 = 2.3 (58%)      5 = 1.3 (33%)      1 = 0.3 (8%)

Total points earned \_\_\_\_\_

Percentage \_\_\_\_\_