LEVEL 10: Prose Analysis

'Hills Like White Elephants' by Ernest Hemingway

Name: _____



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In this booklet:

- Vocabulary
- 'Hills Like White Elephants' by Ernest Hemingway (extract)
- Focus technique: Irony
- Focus action word: Evaluate

Homework log

Date	To Do	Completion

Getting to know each other

Have you ever travelled to Spain or anywhere else in Europe? If not, where

have you travelled to?

What's your favourite cold drink to have on a hot summer's day?

Learning goals

Date	What did you learn this week?

Vocab: Define the following words, using words you understand

e.g. *[Carnivore] A living creature which only eats meat.*

Due to his significant experiences as a journalist, Hemingway naturally uses a simplistic vocabulary to deliver his narrative and the messages it contains. The table below contains a list of sophisticated words that could replace those used in his short story. Define each word and search for its synonym within the text.

Word	Definition
Structure	
Scorching	
Consume	
Substantial	
Proclaim	
Outstanding	
Adequate	
Swell	
Intelligent	
Previously	
Distraught	
Blissful	
Desire	
Pleasant	
Plain (noun)	
Discussing	

Vocab: Use each of the following words in a sentence which shows its meaning.

e.g. *[Carnivore] Lions are carnivores.*

Word	**Use In A Sentence**
Structure	
Scorching	
Consume	
Substantial	
Proclaim	
Outstanding	
Adequate	
Swell	

Intelligent	
Previously	
Distraught	
Blissful	
Desire	
Pleasant	
Plain (noun)	
Discussing	

Extract from the text:

'Hills Like White Elephants' by Ernest Hemingway (Extract)

The woman brought two glasses of beer and two felt pads. She put the felt pads and the beer glass on the table and looked at the man and the girl. The girl was looking off at the line of hills. They were white in the sun and the country was brown and dry.

'They look like white elephants,' she said.

'I've never seen one,' the man drank his beer.

'No, you wouldn't have.'

'I might have,' the man said. 'Just because you say I wouldn't have doesn't prove anything.'

The girl looked at the bead curtain. 'They've painted something on it,' she said. 'What does it say?'

'Anis del Toro. It's a drink.'

'Could we try it?'

The man called 'Listen' through the curtain. The woman came out from the bar.

'Four reales.' 'We want two Anis del Toro.'

'With water?'

'Do you want it with water?'

'I don't know,' the girl said. 'Is it good with water?'

'It's all right.'

'You want them with water?' asked the woman.

'Yes, with water.'

'It tastes like liquorice,' the girl said and put the glass down.

'That's the way with everything.'

'Yes,' said the girl. 'Everything tastes of liquorice. Especially all the things you've waited so long for, like absinthe.'

'Oh, cut it out.'

'You started it,' the girl said. 'I was being amused. I was having a fine time.'

'Well, let's try and have a fine time.'

'All right. I was trying. I said the mountains looked like white elephants. Wasn't that bright?'

'That was bright.'

'I wanted to try this new drink. That's all we do, isn't it – look at things and try new drinks?'

'I guess so.'

Extract Analysis

1) Describe the tone of this extract:

2) Identify two techniques, where they are evident and why?

3) What is the theme of this extract and why?

Context

1.What is Ernest Hemingway's legacy as a writer (how do we remember him)?

2.What is unique about this short story of his?

3.Where and when was he born?

4.Around what time was Hemingway writing?

5.Identify several key aspects of Hemingway's life that may have influenced his works:

6.Describe the environment of this narrative (Ebro river in the north of Spain) and support this description with light research?

7.What was going on in the world at the time of this story’s release and the years leading up to it?

Comprehension

Understanding

- Summarise what's happening in the narrative in your own words.
- Why are they waiting for a train?
- What are the American couple debating about?
- What are each of their attitudes toward this issue?
- The conclusion is open ended. Given the tone and characterisation of the text, what do you believe is the outcome?

Themes

- What are some themes of this narrative?
- How do these themes align and contribute to the prose fiction genre?

Structure

- Consider the use of dialogue in this short story and how it compares to texts that you have previously read. Evaluate its in/significance and describe the effect of this.

Tone

- How would you describe the tone of this narrative? Make a list of appropriate words, and jot each word beside the parts of the story which reflect it.

Language

Hemingway naturally uses a simplistic vocabulary to deliver his narrative and the messages it contains. What is the effect of this and how does it relate to the genre of prose fiction?

Analysis

Annotate the story and fill in examples from the text in the box below. How do the techniques add meaning to the text?

Structure

Anaphora	
Caesura	
Chiasmus	

Endstopping	
Enjambment	
Parallelism	
Repetition	
Meter	

Figurative

Accumulation	
Allegory	
Allusion	
Foreshadowing	
Hyperbole	
Imagery	
Irony	
Jargon	
Juxtaposition	
Metaphor	
Motif	
Pathetic fallacy	
Personification	
Simile	
Symbolism	

Sonic

Alliteration	
Homophone	
Onomatopoeia	
Pun	
Rhyme (end)	
Rhyme (internal)	
Sibilance	

Focus technique: Irony

Definition

Irony is a literary technique in which what appears, on the surface, to be the case, differs radically from what is actually the case.

Effect/s

Irony has an array of purposes as it may be employed to characterise, add humour, heighten tension or make information apparent.

Examples in literature
"Water, water, everywhere, And all the boards did shrink; Water, water, everywhere, Nor any drop to drink." – The Rime of the Ancient Mariner (By Samuel Coleridge)

> In the above-stated lines, the ship – blown by the south wind – is stranded in the uncharted sea. Ironically, there is water everywhere, but they do not have a single drop of drinkable water.

Write your own example:

_____

_____

_____

How does our text use this technique? What's the effect?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Analytical response

Focus action word: Evaluate

Definition

Make a judgement based on criteria; determine the value of a particular idea, question or statement.

How to answer

The example below will provide a model for your responses. In different colours, highlight: a) the technique, b) the quote, c) the analysis, and d) the link to the question.

Q: Evaluate how literary elements create tension in "Hills Like White Elephants".

A: Hemingway effectively creates tension through his employment of imagery in, "The girl looked at the ground the table legs rested on". This literary device visually depicts the extended silence of the woman in response to two adjoining lines of dialogue from her male counterpart and thus, successfully reveals the tension of the scene.

Some questions for you to answer...

Evaluate the significance of the couple's debate:

- What is their debate about?

- How does the text convey this and is it important?

Evaluate the effect of the text's open-ended conclusion:

- What is the text's conclusion?

- Why has this been done?

- What does this communicate?

Extended Response: Evaluate how tone may alter and/or create meaning in *'Hills Like White Elephants'*