

Final Essay

You will write an essay that relates to a character, theme, or literary element. Choose **one** of the following options and write a 3-5 page essay.

Option #1 Character Essay:

Choose 1 character and analyze at least 3 examples of how that character relates to one of the novel's themes.

- Pattern: In Markus Zusak's *The Book Thief*, (name the character here) exemplifies (name the theme here). This can be seen through (character's name)'s (1st example), (2nd example), and (3rd example).
- Example: In Markus Zusak's *The Book Thief*, Hans exemplifies that compassion uplifts others especially in times of trial. He demonstrates this theme through his treatment of Liesel, his accordion playing, and his willingness to help the persecuted Jews.

Option #2 Theme Essay:

Choose 1 theme and analyze at least three events or examples from the novel that demonstrate this theme.

- Pattern: In George Eliot's novel *Silas Marner*, (name the theme here) can be seen through (name 1st example/event), (name 2nd example/event), and (name 3rd example/event).
- Example: In George Eliot's novel *Silas Marner*, Eliot shows that life reaches fulfillment only through caring for others. This can be seen through 1) Silas's lack of meaningful purpose in life, as a symbolic death, when he lives alone, 2) his symbolic reawakening into life as he learns to nurture and care for Eppie, and 3) the examples and contrasts between the happiness and secret longings of Dolly and Nancy.

Option #3 Variation 1 Literary Elements Essay:

Choose 1 or 2 literary elements and analyze how the author uses those elements to create an effect. Use examples from the book to support analysis.

- Pattern: In *The Old Man and the Sea*, Ernest Hemingway uses (literary elements 1 and 2) to (name effect here).
- Example: In *The Old Man and the Sea*, Ernest Hemingway uses personification and parallelism to create a relationship between Santiago, the Marlin, and the reader of the novel.

Option #3 Variation 2 Literary Elements Essay using THEME:

Choose 1 or 2 literary elements and analyze how they are used to support one or more of the novel's themes. Use examples from the book to support analysis.

- Pattern: In *Animal Farm*, George Orwell uses (name literary element) to illustrate (theme statement here).
- Example: In *Animal Farm*, George Orwell shows that the power of propaganda and an ignorance of history can easily lead to government manipulation and corruption.

(Ok, this one was a stretch as propaganda and ignorance are NOT stylistic *devices*, but in this sense they are more like tools and elements used by Orwell to prove his theme.)