

Name: _____ #: _____ Period: _____

Critical Theory/ Lenses Quotes Analysis – “The Sniper”

Directions: Read each quote below and identify its speaker and the character(s) who relate to it. Then, circle the topic(s) listed in the Topics Key that apply to each quote. Some quotes may lack a direct speaker (such as if the quote is an unnamed narrator) or have no related characters. In those cases, it is fine to leave the “Speaker” or “Related character(s)” fields blank. Then provide an analysis of the quote from the literary lens listed in the box below the quote.

Topics Key

1. Divisions
2. War, Violence, and Enmity
3. Change and Ingenuity
4. Pain and Perseverance
5. Humanity and Remorse

Here and there through the city, machine guns and rifles broke the silence of the night, spasmodically, like dogs barking on lone farms. Republicans and Free Staters were waging civil war.	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Speakers: <i>Unnamed Narrator</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Related character(s): <i>N/A</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Related Topics: 1, 2</td> </tr> </table>	Speakers: <i>Unnamed Narrator</i>	Related character(s): <i>N/A</i>	Related Topics: 1, 2
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Related character(s): <i>N/A</i>				
Related Topics: 1, 2				
<u>Historical/ Cultural</u> <i>The Irish civil war began when the Anglo-Irish Treaty was offered. Two differing opinions became sides opposed on whether to accept the terms or not. The two sides had been fighting as one army until the treaty was offered, but they split based on the allegiance to the different positions on the treaty. The civil war resulted in guerrilla warfare and fighting in the streets. Because the men were once a part of the same army we can infer that many of the men know one another. Civil wars tear apart families and friendships because people take sides based on beliefs rather than allegiance to a country or region.</i>				
His face was the face of a student, thin and ascetic, but his eyes had the cold gleam of the fanatic. They were deep and thoughtful, the eyes of a man who is used to looking at death.	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Speakers:</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Related character(s):</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Related Topics:</td> </tr> </table>	Speakers:	Related character(s):	Related Topics:
Speakers:				
Related character(s):				
Related Topics:				
<u>Gender/Feminist</u>				
The sniper thought the noise would wake the dead.	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Speakers:</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Related character(s):</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Related Topics:</td> </tr> </table>	Speakers:	Related character(s):	Related Topics:
Speakers:				
Related character(s):				
Related Topics:				
<u>Formalist</u>				

The Republican sniper smiled and lifted his revolver above the edge of the parapet...his hand trembled with eagerness.	Speakers:
	Related character(s):
	Related Topics:
Archetypal/ Mythological	
Then when the smoke cleared, he peered across and uttered a cry of joy. His enemy had been hit.	Speakers:
	Related character(s):
	Related Topics:
Reader Response	
The body turned over and over in space and hit the ground with a dull thud. Then it lay still.	Speakers:
	Related character(s):
	Related Topics:
Biographical	
The lust of battle died in him. He became bitten by remorse...he revolted from the sight of the shattered mass of his dead enemy. His teeth chattered, he began to gibber to himself, cursing the war, cursing himself, cursing everybody.	Speakers:
	Related character(s):
	Related Topics:

Psychological

He felt a sudden curiosity as to the identity of the enemy sniper whom he had killed...Perhaps he had been in his own company before the split in the army.

Speakers:

Related character(s):

Related Topics:

Reader Response

Then the sniper turned over the dead body and looked into his brother's face.

Speakers:

Related character(s):

Related Topics:

Historical

Archetypal/ Mythological

A quick overview/ review of the lenses:

- **Reader Response** lens is your own personal connection or reaction to the text.
 - Questions and Strategies: In what ways is the text familiar to your life? Think of events in the story, the types of characters, or the setting... Can you relate to it on a personal level? In what ways is the text different than your life? How did the text affect you? How has the text increased your interest in the subject matter? How has the text changed your worldview?
- **Marxist** lens explores a text for its socio-economic issues.
 - Questions and Strategies: Explore the way different demographics are represented in texts. What worldview does the text represent? What does the text say about class structures? Analyze the social effects of the text.
- **Gender** lens explores a text for its gender related issues or attitudes towards gender. The assumption here is that there are differences in humans based on gender issues, and these differences should be valued. This lens values all humans as equal members of society, but notes when equality is not represented.
 - Questions and Strategies: Consider the gender of the author and the characters: what role does gender play in the text? Observe how gender stereotypes might be reinforced or undermined. Try to see how the text reflects or distorts the place men or women have in society. Imagine reading the text from the point of view of someone from the opposite gender. Consider what images of “others” are presented in the text. How are these “others” portrayed? Are there any unfair stereotypes? Are there any generalities that hold truth? Analyze the text for how it deals with cultural conflicts, particularly between majority and minority groups.
- **Historical/ Cultural & Biographical** lenses explore a text for its contextual significance. This would include information about the author, his or her historical moment, or the systems of meaning available at the time of writing.
 - Questions and Strategies:
 - **Biographical**—Research the author’s life and relate the information to the text. Why did the author write it? What is the author’s worldview? If the author is writing on a debatable issue? Does he or she give proper consideration to all sides of the debate? Does he or she seem to have a bias? How might his or her life experience explain that bias?
 - **Historical/Cultural**—Research the author’s time (political history, intellectual history, economic history, etc.) and relate this information to the work. Upon reading the text, how has your view on the given historical event changed?
- **Psychological** lens explores a text for patterns in human behavior. While everyone’s formative history is different in particulars, there are basic recurrent patterns of development for most people.
 - Questions and Strategies: Is the way the characters act believable? Why do certain characters act the way they do? Think of a general viewpoint on life for children, youth, young adults, middle-aged, or elderly people. Do the characters follow the patterns associated with these groups? Think of the range of human emotions. How do they come to play in the text? (happiness, anger, depression, indifference, confusion, etc.) What did you think of any moral/ethical choices that the characters made? What would you have done? Think about the broader social issues the text attempts to address.
- **Formalist** lens examines the form of the work as a whole, the form of each individual part of the text (the individual scenes and chapters), the characters, the settings, the tone, the point of view, the diction, and all other elements of the text which join to make it a single text. After analyzing each part, the critic then describes how they work together to make or give meaning (theme) to the text.
 - Questions and Strategies: Did a particular aspect (literary element) of the novel make an impact on me? What relationships between the various parts of the novel (and literary elements) do I see? What lesson (meaning or theme) did the author want me to learn from reading this novel? Consider all aspects of the story including (but not limited to) characterization, plot, organization, point of view, theme, symbolism, motif, use of (or lack of) dialogue, diction, syntax, etc. How do the different elements work together to create meaning?
- **Archetypal/ Mythological** lens examines connections to other literature, mythological/biblical allusions, archetypal images, symbols, characters, and themes.
 - Questions and Strategies: What archetypal characters do you see? (ex. Hero, savior) What archetypal situations do you see? (ex. Betrayal, quest) What archetypal symbols do you see? (ex. Water, rising or setting sun, color imagery) How do recurring patterns and our understanding of these patterns affect our understanding of the text? How does this story resemble other stories in plot, character, setting, or symbolism? What universal experiences are depicted? Are patterns suggested? Are seasons used to suggest a pattern or cycle? Does the protagonist undergo any kind of transformation, such as movement from innocence to experience, that seems archetypal? Are the names significant? Is there a Christ-like figure in the work? Does the work deal with the concepts of death and rebirth? Are there any origin myth aspects (explanation of something humans do not understand about the world)?