

# Philosophy Unit: Analysis Sheet

- **Answer the specific questions in the text or from the docs assigned by me (see board).**
- **Author's philosophical/political/religious ideas (see the big philosophical questions from paper 2 of the project and cite your sources):**
  - What view of life does the story present? Which character best articulates this viewpoint?
  - According to this work's view of life, what is mankind's relationship to God? To the universe?
  - What moral statement, if any, does this story make? Is it explicit or implicit?
  - What is the author's attitude toward his world? Toward fate? Toward God?
  - What is the author's conception of good and evil?
  - What does the work say about the nature of good or evil?
  - What does the work say about human nature?
- **Theme/Central meaning of the work with evidence (some suggestions below):**

Theme deals with four areas of human experience:

  - The Nature of humanity-What image of humankind emerges from the work?
  - The nature of society-Is the society flawed? Is it life-enhancing or life-destroying? Are characters in conflict with society?
  - The nature of humankind's relationship with the world- Fate vs. Destiny? Are characters controlled or in control of their destinies?
  - The nature of our ethical responsibilities- What are the moral conflicts in the work? Are they clear cut or ambiguous? Who is the moral center (the character that the author sees as clearly right and good)? If there isn't one, why?
  1. What ideas does the author state directly?
  2. How are the characters typical of human behavior? What ideas do they espouse or seem to represent? Which characters—and thus the ideas associated with them—predominate at the end of the work?
  3. What ideas are associated with places and other physical properties?
  4. Authors sometimes signal ideas through devices like titles, names, and epigraphs. (An epigraph is a pertinent quotation put at the beginning of work or chapter). Examples of suggestive titles are *The Grapes of Wrath* (taken from a line in "The Battle Hymn of the Republic"), *All the King's Men* (from the nursery rhyme "Humpty Dumpty"), *Pride and Prejudice*, *Great Expectations*, and *Measure for Measure*. What ideas seem embedded in titles, chapter heads, epigraphs, names, and other direct indications of authors' ideas?
  5. What do other works by the author suggest about the meaning of this work?
  6. As with Björn Kurtén and Jessamyn West (discussed above), authors sometimes comment on their own work. What light does such comment shed on the ideas in the work?
  7. What feelings does the work elicit in each of us? What do we experience in the work that we have never gone through? What have we experienced that the work brings powerfully to life?
- **Describe the characters and their function in the work (some suggestions below):**

General comments: flat/round characters; Believable? How are they revealed? How complex? Protagonist/antagonist? Then describe 4-6 central characters: name, age, three descriptive adjectives, appearance, personality, function in novel, a short quote that reveals character.

**Questions About Characters**

  1. Are the characters flat or round? What types do they represent? What makes them complex? Do they have traits that contradict one another and therefore cause internal conflicts?

2. Are they dynamic or static? What, if anything, changes about them? What steps do they go through to change?
3. What problems do they have? How do they attempt to solve them? Are they sad, happy, or between?
4. Do they experience epiphanies? When, why, and what do their epiphanies reveal – to themselves, to us? Does what they learn help or hinder them?
5. How do they relate to one another?
6. How do we learn about their inner lives – their conscious and unconscious thoughts, their ambitions, their ideas? Do they have speech mannerisms, gestures, or modes of dress that reveal their inner selves? What narrative devices does the author employ to render characters' thoughts?

- **Symbolism/Motifs:**

- **Structure/Plot/Form:**

- **Conflicts (some suggestions below):**

1. What conflicts does the work dramatize?
2. What is the main conflict? What are minor conflicts? How are all the conflicts related?
3. What causes the conflicts?
4. Which conflicts are external, which internal?
5. Who is the protagonist? Who or what is the antagonist?
6. What qualities or values are associated with each side of the conflict?
7. Where does the climax occur?
8. How is the main conflict resolved? Which conflicts go unresolved?

- **SETTING(some suggestions below):**

Where and when does this narrative occur? How is the environment described? Any symbolic meanings in the settings? What ATMOSPHERE is created by the setting?

1. Mark descriptions of physical place. Underline telling words and phrases.
2. Characterize physical locales, such as houses, rooms, and outdoor areas.
3. Explain the connection of physical place to one or more of the characters.
4. Arrange key events in chronological order. Indicate when each event occurs.
5. Mark passages where a character's emotional state affects the way the passage of time is presented to us.
6. Explain how historical circumstances and characters are important.
7. List the thoughts and actions of characters that seem to typify the social environment of the work. They drink heavily, go to church, obey rules of etiquette, gamble, throw parties, get in fights, cheat in business, wander restlessly, and so forth.
8. Mark scenes in which the narrator or characters express approval or disapproval of these patterns of behavior.
9. Explain how these patterns influence characters.
10. List traits of the atmosphere.

- **Author's style (cite examples of the author's style-tone, imagery, diction, syntax, irony, pov, figures of speech, rhetorical devices, humor, etc.):**

- **MEMORABLE QUOTES/PASSAGES:** cite 3 quotes or passages and discuss their significance to the character and the meaning of the work.

- **Create 3 AP LIT STYLE multiple-choice questions from the poem/story.**

See the question types for AP LIT and include 5 answer choices. (These can be found on the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter page in the documents called MC STEMS.) Label the correct answer.