

#### Information





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### College and Career Readiness Standards for Reading:

1. Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.





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## Textual analysis



When you analyze a text, your interpretations of characters, symbols, themes, etc. should be directly based on what the text actually says. In other words, you should be able to point to specific passages in the text that support your interpretation.

Textual analysis does not have to be limited to the text you are studying. You can use secondary sources, such as literary criticisms, or you can compare how one text relates to other texts on a similar theme.

Consider a character in a text you have read. What are your impressions of the character and his or her purpose in the text? Identify at least three direct quotations that justify your claim.



## Character







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## **Analyzing language techniques**



When analyzing a text, you should go beyond just identifying language techniques and begin to formulate theories about their purpose or how they are used.

### Consider analyzing:

- symbols repeated, iconic or symbolic images that represent the key themes
- mood the feeling that the language of the text conveys to the reader
- imagery rhetorical features or descriptive language that shape the reader's sensory experience of a text.





## **Symbols**



The most obvious symbol in "The Yellow Wallpaper" is the wallpaper itself. At first it is merely ugly wallpaper, but then the protagonist begins to see a moving shape in the pattern.

The protagonist believes that the shape is a woman trapped behind the pattern. At the end of the novel, the protagonist believes she is the trapped woman and rips the paper off the wall so that she can escape.

There are many different interpretations of this symbol. One interpretation is that the wallpaper represents the imprisonment and oppression that the character is feeling.

Identify a symbol in the text you are studying. What might it represent? Use quotations to support your theory.





# Wallpaper as a symbol







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# Mood

















# Imagery







### **Author's intentions and voice**



Rather than just exploring what happens in a text, think about how it affects the reader, and why an author made certain choices.

Doing research on the author or the contextual influences can help you to make inferences about the author's intentions.

When researching the author of a text, you should consider:

- when and where the author lived
- social issues of the author's time
- the author's personal history.





## Author's intentions











### **Quoting and citing**



It is important to select appropriate quotations to use in your essays. Incorporating the ideas of literary critics can help you support your own interpretations of texts.

You should quote directly when there is a specific passage that either supports your argument or that you disagree with.

Citing is when you refer to a text without quoting it directly, for example:

"Joseph Reel has written extensively on the influence that Greek mythology has had on Western literature and art."





# Checklist for quoting





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