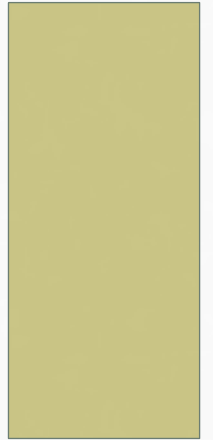
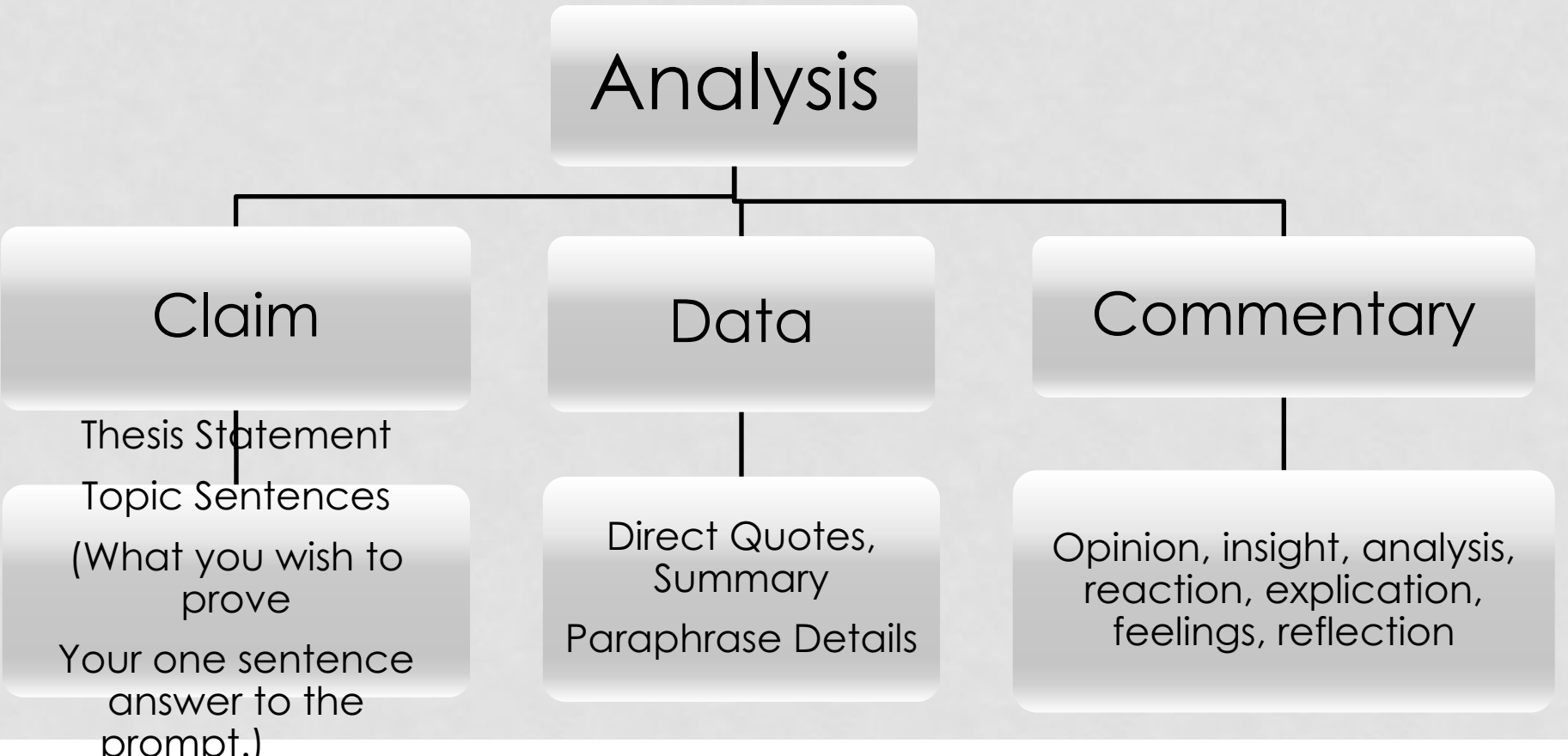


A GUIDE TO LITERARY ANALYSIS



Scoring Guide—Key Words

- 8-9 – persuasive analysis—perceptive in **analysis**
- 6-7 – competent, with reasonable **analysis** but less convincing
- 5 – **analysis** is superficial—often relying on paraphrase
- 3-4 – fails to offer adequate **analysis**—partial, unconvincing, or irrelevant
- 1-2 – an attempt but assertions are presented with little clarity, organization or support—no **analysis**



In the following speech from Shakespeare's play *Henry VIII*, Cardinal Wolsey considers his sudden downfall from his position as advisor to the king. Spokesmen for the king have just left Wolsey alone on stage. Read the speech carefully.

Then write a well-organized essay in which you **analyze** how Shakespeare uses elements such as allusion, **figurative language**, and tone to convey Wolsey's **complex response** to his **dismissal** from court.

This is the state of man: to-day he puts forth
The tender leaves of hopes, to-morrow blossoms,
And bears his blushing honors thick upon him;
The third day comes a frost, a killing frost,
And when he thinks, good easy man, full surely
His greatness is a-ripening, nips his root,
And then he falls as I do.

(lines 3-9)

LITERARY ANALYSIS

It is Cardinal Wolsey who says "...today he puts forth the tender leaves of hopes," he makes people seem like trees; growing and then being cut down to make room for something else. Wolsey use figurative language to his advantage by using a comparison to trees as an extended metaphor.

Score 2

LITERARY ANALYSIS

The figurative language creates images which heighten Wosley's reasons for anger. The metaphor in lines 4-9 compare the Cardinal's actions to the growth of a plant. His hopes "blossom" only to die to "a killing frost" and find his works "a-ripening" only to have the king nip "his root." The metaphor depicts the Cardinal as a positive addition to the King's court, as a strong aid for the king, who has been struck down wrongfully. The contrast of healthy nature and the quick death enhances the notion of wrong doing.

Score 5

LITERARY ANALYSIS

The first comparison Shakespeare employs, a metaphor, reveals Wolsey's indignation at the injustice dealt to him. He has put "forth the tender leaves of hope" (3-4), seen them blossom; however, nature comes in the form of frost to "nip[] his roots" (8). Wolsey compares his fall to being frozen by frost at the climax of potential. To compare the king to a force of nature, Wolsey recognizes that the action was beyond any man's control, thus ceding a potential argument that the king was at fault and should have been stopped. The impending forces of nature make it seem that Wolsey's fall was fate, thus cementing the injustice he feels.

Score 7

Read the following passage from *The Life of Samuel Johnson* by James Boswell. Use the claim sentence starter provided to write a chunk of literary analysis that could be used in an essay on the following topic: Discuss the ways Boswell differentiates between the writing of Joseph Addison and that of Samuel Johnson. Analyze Boswell's view of both writers and the devices he uses to convey those views.

SENTENCE STARTER

Boswell differentiates the writing of Johnson and Addison by suggesting _____

through the literary device of _____. For example...

The Blind Always Come as Such a Surprise

Ted Kooser

The blind always come as such a surprise,
suddenly filling an elevator
with a great white porcupine of canes,
or coming down upon us in a noisy crowd
like the eye of a hurricane.

The dashboards of cars stopped at crosswalks
and the shoes of commuters on trains
are covered with sentences
struck down in mid-flight by the canes of the
blind.

Each of them changes our lives,
tapping across the bright circles of our ambitions
like cracks traversing the favorite china.

Chunk: **The porcupine imagery illustrates how blind people affect our lives and make us uncomfortable.** In the first three lines Kooser describes how the blind can suddenly fill an elevator “with a great white porcupine of canes.” The porcupine image is highly appropriate here. A porcupine is noted for its prickliness; we are apprehensive when it is around and we do not want to touch it. The blind person, according to Kooser, evokes a similar reaction: their presence in a situation causes “prickliness,” and it makes us uncomfortable.