



Incoming 9th Grade Conflict and Theme Essay

Welcome to English I. To be prepared for this school year it is mandatory that every student participates in summer reading and complete the attached assignment.

Directions: Choose one of the summer reading texts and respond to the writing prompt below. You are only required to read ONE text. Please have a pre-written (or typed) five paragraph essay prior to the first day of class.

Texts:

Monster by Walter Dean Myers

Romiette and Julio by Sharon Draper

Monster: A Graphic Novel by Walter Dean Myers

Hidden Girl: The Trues Story of a Modern Day Slave by Shiyima Hall

Writing Prompt: One of the main methods that an author uses to express a specific message in a work of fiction is through the use of conflict in a story. A character usually learns an important lesson by going through an experience of conflict, and this conflict can reveal to an important message about life (theme). In an insightful, well-written five-paragraph essay, explore the author's use of internal conflict and external conflict to convey a universal theme in the story. You must also discuss a separate literary element (setting, irony, symbol, etc.) and discuss its specific relationship to a conflict in the story that allows the author to convey the identified theme.

Organization of Essay

- *Introduction Paragraph:* Begin your essay with an introduction that introduces your ideas and the story that you will be discussing.
 - You need an "AGO" to engage the reader into your essay immediately
 - Provide the reader with necessary background information in the bridge sentences
 - Conclude this paragraph with a well-written and focused thesis statement that identifies the use of conflict in the story, the additional literary element you will discuss, and a thematic statement (theme).
- *1st Body Paragraph:* Identify and analyze a specific example of EXTERNAL conflict in the text and explain how it helps to reveal the author's message (theme).

- *2nd Body Paragraph:* Identify and analyze a specific example of INTERNAL conflict in the text and explain how it helps to reveal the author's message (theme).
- *3rd Body Paragraph:* Identify the use of another literary element (i.e. setting, irony, symbol) and discuss its relationship to the conflict in the text. Explain how this relationship helps to reveal the author's message (theme).
- *Conclusion Paragraph:* End with a paragraph that concludes your main argument by restating your thesis and supporting arguments. Summarize the content (external and internal conflict as well as relationship of literary element to the text). End with a final persuasive statement that brings your essay back to your AGO.
 - Do not use the same wording as your introduction paragraph!

Focused Criteria:

- Introduction paragraph ends with a well-written and focused thesis statement that presents the main argument of the essay and incorporates how the writer will support this argument.
- Each body paragraph will begin with a topic sentence that makes a statement, which the rest of the paragraph will work to support.
- Topic sentences work to support the argument presented in the thesis statement.
- Each paragraph will include relevant pieces of textual evidence directly quoted from the text that support the argument of the paragraph. Textual evidence will be cited in proper MLA format. Analysis follows textual evidence to explain how the excerpt from the text supports the writer's argument.
- The writer displays an accurate understanding of the idea of a theme in a literary work.
- The writer responds accurately to assigned prompt.
- The writer creates a well-written piece that is free of errors in grammar, spelling, and mechanics.

Format of Essay: Double-spaced if typed, however handwritten essays will be accepted. No 1st/2nd person (3rd person only) and be sure to follow MLA format.

Grading: This assignment will be worth 2 class work grades.

Summer Reading Help will be available at the Bolger Media Center from 2:45-3:45 on Thursdays 8/2, 8/9 & 8/16.