

Name: _____

SIFT Analysis

Author:			
Title:			
<p><i>S-SYMBOLS</i></p> <p>Since the title of a story or novel often contains symbols that hint at theme, you should first be encouraged to reexamine the title. Is part of the title a central symbol in the story? Are there other significant symbols in the story? What are the characteristics of the symbol(s)? Speculate about its significance. Has the symbol been used in literature before to represent the same themes in this story? Does the meaning of the symbol change throughout the story, and does the change reveal insights about the author's use of symbolism and its contribution to theme?</p>	<i>Example and significance...</i>	<i>Example and significance...</i>	<i>Example and significance...</i>
<p><i>S-SETTING</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Setting is often one of the most overlooked, yet most important, devices used to set the TONE of a text. Consider setting as more than just "time and place." Yes, these are important, but notice also things like time of day, weather, urban/pastoral, barren/lush, etc. A lush, verdant locale that often has gentle rains could be indicative of fertility, for example. • Keep in mind that one story can have multiple settings. You should note the significance of multiple settings. 	<i>Example and significance...</i>	<i>Example and significance...</i>	<i>Example and significance...</i>
<p><i>I-IMAGERY</i></p> <p>Writers use language to create sensory impressions and to evoke specific responses to characters, objects, events, or situations in their works. The writer "shows" rather than "tells," thus allowing the reader to participate in the experience more fully. Therefore, imagery helps to produce mood and tone. When reading a piece of literature containing imagery, consider two questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What do I see, hear, taste, smell, or feel? 2. What EFFECT is the author trying to convey with these images? <p>Does the story open or close with significant or intense images? Why might the author begin or end with those images? What kind of information or message do they provide?</p>	<i>Example and significance...</i>	<i>Example and significance...</i>	<i>Example and significance...</i>

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<p><i>I-IRONY</i></p> <p>Irony: the use of language to manipulate meaning from what one expects to something quite different</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dramatic irony: Irony that results when the audience or reader is aware of action within the plot that the characters themselves are not privy to. (Think horror movies) • Situational irony: Irony that results when an anticipated resolution based on a series of events does not actually occur, and what does occur is quite unexpected. (Even if you “saw it coming.”) • Verbal irony: Irony that results when a character says something, and although it may have meaning within that particular context, it also has meaning outside of this context as well, and this meaning is often more important. (Sarcasm is a type of verbal irony.) 	<p><i>Example and significance...</i></p>	<p><i>Example and significance...</i></p>	<p><i>Example and significance...</i></p>
<p><i>F-FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE</i></p> <p>Writers form images by using figures of speech such as similes, metaphors, and personification. Find examples in the story and discuss how these figures of speech help to convey effect and meaning. Consider the following questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the significance of comparisons in the story? (metaphors, similes, etc.) 2. How do figures of speech enhance meaning? <p>Consider other devices used in the story such as irony and allusion. Irony is often found in the contradictions of expectations and reality, or appearance and reality. How do allusions enhance the meaning or effect of the novel? Does the author retain the original symbolic meaning of an allusion, or does he/she alter it?</p>	<p><i>Example and significance...</i></p>	<p><i>Example and significance...</i></p>	<p><i>Example and significance...</i></p>
<p><i>T-TONE</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A close examination of word choice, imagery, and detail reveals a narrator’s attitude or tone and contributes to the reader’s understanding. Find details that reveal the author’s tone toward the subjects of the story. • An important thing to note about tone is that it can (and usually does) change over the course of a work. Therefore, while the overall tone of a piece may be one thing, there may also be several tone shifts that occur. • Another important thing about tone is to make sure your assessment of it is as accurate as possible and this means using the right word(s). For example happy and ecstatic are not the same thing. 	<p><i>Example and significance...</i></p>	<p><i>Example and significance...</i></p>	<p><i>Example and significance...</i></p>

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<i>T-THEME</i>	<i>Example and significance...</i>	<i>Example and significance...</i>	<i>Example and significance...</i>
<p>To determine the theme, you might:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Summarize the story.2. List the subject s or motifs that emerge from the summary, such as evil, injustice, inhumanity, social protest, corruption, poverty, tradition, individuality, survival, etc.3. Write a sentence about each subject or motif based on insights gained from analyzing symbolism, imagery, figurative language, and other devices. <p>Because all literary devices lead to tone and theme, this process will help you to perceive what insights about life the author is revealing about each subject and to refine the process of determining meaning in a text.</p> <p>Ask yourself what life-lessons the main characters have learned or what lessons they themselves have learned as a result of reading. Look for statements in the story by the characters or the narrator that comment on life, the world, or human nature, thereby implying theme. Discuss each thematic possibility and decide which to be the most probable based upon the evidence from the text and from this "SIFTing" process, keeping in mind the fact that many stories have more than one theme and there is seldom just one "right" answer.</p> <p>Example themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Based on the motif of <u>social protest</u>: "When a man becomes a threat to society , that society sets out to destroy him."• Based on the motif of <u>individual and society</u>: "Man has no individual identity and cannot exist as a single human person apart from society."			

Please synthesize your SIFT observations in a few paragraphs on the next page.

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Based on your analysis explain how the author uses the SSIIF in order to achieve the TT (tone and theme). In other words, how does the author use literary devices to convey an overall tone and/or theme?