Literary Analysis Paragraph Sample Prompts

*Authors do everything on purpose! Each word, phrase, punctuation mark and metaphor is thoughtfully and purposefully placed. As readers, when we are trying to analyze the meaning in a text, it is so important to pay close attention to the author's moves or writing techniques. We should always be asking ourselves "Why did William Golding use the symbol of the pig head in 'Lord of the Flies'?" or "How does Shakespeare create such a somber mood in 'Romeo and Juliet'?"   
  
As thoughtful readers, these are questions that we should be constantly considering and discussing. In our Socratic Seminar, we discussed important themes, characters, symbols, and plot details that make the text significant and meaningful. Now, we are going to take that analytical mindset and write a paragraph that considers an important literary question about your text.*

There are three prompt options below. With the help of your teacher, select the level of prompt that best sets you up for success on this assignment.



**Mild:**

What is the primary theme of this text?



**Medium:**

How does the author of this text use a literary device (simile, metaphor, allusion, symbol) in order to convey meaning to the reader?



**Spicy:**

How does the author of this text use specific diction in order to create a specific tone or mood for the reader?