

Subject area/course: English/Language Arts

Grade level/band: 9

Task source: Center for Collaborative Education (CCE); Author: Jon Olkovikas

Literary Analysis: Theme Expressed Through Imagery and Symbolism

STUDENT INSTRUCTIONS

A. Task context:

For this assessment, you will choose a theme from the book that we have read and demonstrate how the author uses imagery and symbolism to develop that theme.

Part 1: Visual

Graphic artists work with publishers to create illustrations for books to be used in media releases, ads, illustrations, and as cover art. These visuals should attract readers and reveal something important about the book's message. Take the role of a graphic designer and create a visual for an ad or to use as an illustration in the book that shows how the author uses imagery and symbolism to highlight a theme. Your visual of choice could include a drawing, comic, pictures for an illustrated version of the book, PowerPoint, film (e.g. a book trailer), or infographic.

Part 2: Textual Analysis and Artist Statement

Write an artist statement that explains how the author uses symbolism and imagery to develop a theme and explains how your visual shows that theme. Your statement needs to include citations from the book. Below are the elements to include in your artist statement.

- Describe a key theme in the book and then explain how the author uses symbolism and imagery to develop that theme. Include textual evidence to support your explanation.
- Identify the connection between your visual and the theme of the piece of media you chose.
- Explain the decisions that you made when creating your visual. Which details did you include and which details did you deliberately leave out and why? Be sure to cite evidence explaining your decisions.
- What creative design choices did you use and how does it support your message?
- Be sure to accurately cite any information or quotations from the book or piece of media that you used.

Part 3: Presentation

You will present your visual to the class. The presentation should focus on your understanding of the author's use of imagery and symbolism to reveal a theme.



B. Final product:

You are responsible for submitting your visual, a written artist statement, and then presenting your visual to the class.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

C. Knowledge and skills you will need to demonstrate on this task:

- Characteristics of imagery and symbolism
- Definition of theme and how to determine a theme, as well as identify how an author develops that theme
- How an author uses words/images over the course of a text
- Develop a topic with relevant details and quotations
- Create a visual that communicates a theme

D. Materials needed:

Depending on the book used, this may vary. Suggested resources include:

- “Anthem” by Ayn Rand

E. Time requirements:

You will have 3 weeks to complete this assignment. Your teacher will build in checkpoints for peer and teacher feedback.

F. Scoring:

Your work will be scored using the QPA Common Literary Analysis Rubric, QPA Common Visual or Media Rubric, and the QPA Common Oral Communication Rubric. You should make sure you are familiar with the language that describes the expectations for proficient performance.

