



Si: Skills Card

Reader: _____ Room: _____

Vocabulary

Find a word you don't know and would like to learn. Use the context to figure out what it probably means. Think of a word or phrase that could take its place in the book without changing the meaning. Check the meaning in a dictionary. Use the word in a sentence. Learn it.

Literary Analysis

	Key Questions for Literature	Key Questions for Informational Text
Central Ideas	<p>What is the theme? How does it develop from the beginning to the end of this text?</p>	<p>What is the main idea or central argument? How does it develop from the beginning to the end of this text?</p>
Key Details	<p>What elements of the text best support your argument that this is the theme of the text?</p> <p>Describe the following literary elements in the text, using evidence from the text. Explain how each contributes to your argument for the central theme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plot (main events, conflict, rising action, climax, falling action, resolution) Characters (motivations of major and minor characters, complex characters) Setting (time, day, year, historical period, place, situation) <p>What is the central conflict and how does it relate to the theme? How is it resolved? Why?</p> <p>Which character in this book is most conflicted? Why? How does this internal conflict advance the plot or develop the theme?</p>	<p>What elements of the text best support your argument that this is the main idea of the text?</p> <p>What reasoning does the author use to support the central argument? Is it valid? Is any of it fallacious?</p> <p>What evidence does he/she give to support it? Is it relevant and sufficient?</p> <p>Which of the author's claims have good supporting evidence? Which don't? Why?</p> <p>Is there evidence used that doesn't actually support the claim?</p> <p>Has s/he convinced you? Why or why not? What evidence would have made a stronger argument?</p>
Use of Language	<p>Describe the way this author uses language. What kinds of words/phrases does he/she use? Why?</p> <p>What is the effect of his/her language choices on text meaning, sense of time and place, and tone?</p> <p>Which words/phrases struck you as important, unusual, or interesting? Why?</p> <p>How does the author's use of language relate to the central theme?</p>	<p>Describe the way this author uses language. What kinds of words/phrases does he/she use? Why?</p> <p>What is the effect of his/her language choices on text meaning, sense of time and place, and tone?</p> <p>Which words/phrases struck you as important, unusual, or interesting? Why?</p> <p>How does the author's use of language relate to the central argument?</p>



Si: Skills Card continued

Literary Analysis continued

	Key Questions for Literature	Key Questions for Informational Text
Organization and Structure	<p>Describe the choices this author made when deciding how to organize the book (use of flashbacks, passage of time, order of events). Speculate as to why these choices were made. Would you have done anything differently?</p> <p>Does the author create a sense of mystery, tension, or surprise? Where? How?</p> <p>How do the structural choices of the author contribute to the central theme?</p>	<p>Describe the choices this author made when deciding how to organize the ideas or claims in this book:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The order in which the points are made. • How they are introduced and developed. • The connections that are drawn between them. • How they support what you claim is the central/main idea. <p>Speculate as to why these choices were made. Were they effective?</p> <p>Has the author's argument convinced you? Why or why not? What organization would have made a stronger argument?</p>
Perspective, Background	<p>In what ways might the book have been different had it been written by someone with a different background? By you?</p> <p>How does the author's background shape the text (characters, setting, plot)? How does the background of the author influence his/her treatment of the central theme?</p>	<p>What is the author's point of view (perspective/opinion) or purpose for writing? How do you know?</p> <p>What does rhetoric mean? How does this author use rhetoric to advance his/her point of view or purpose?</p> <p>How does the author's cultural background, geographical location, or historical time period shape his/her perspective? His/her treatment of the main idea?</p>
Medium	<p>What other medium (visual art, performance, etc) would be most effective for communicating the central theme of this text? Why?</p>	<p>What other media (video, website, image, etc.) would be most effective for communicating the main idea or central argument of this text? Why?</p>
Source Materials	<p>What other source materials (themes, characters, plots, quotes from other authors/sources), did the author use in writing this work? How do you know?</p> <p>Why do you think they were used? How did the author change the source material?</p> <p>How is the source material related to the central theme?</p>	<p>What other source materials (themes, arguments, quotes from other authors/sources) did the author use in writing this work? How do you know?</p> <p>Why do you think they were used? How did the author change the source material?</p> <p>How is the source material related to the main idea/central argument?</p>