

University of Tlemcen,
Department of English

Teachers of the module:

- Ms Mengouchi Meryem
- Ms Menouar Badra
- Dr Kheladi Mohamed
- Mr Ameur Said Zakaria
- Mr Messaoudi Marwan

Level: Lmd 2, English

Module: Literary Studies –
ALL GROUPS

INTRODUCTION TO LITERARY ANALYSIS

Two main approaches, related to the two aspects of a text

Content

What does the author deal with?
What is the message?

form

How he deals with it
How it is conveyed, transmitted

• **Identify the passage INTRODUCTION OF THE ESSAY**

An excerpt, extract, passage taken from ... (name of the author, **FULL title**, chapter, page, ...) GENERAL OVERVIEW OF THE TEXT (THE GENERAL IDEAS)
JUST ONE LINE OF TWO

MENTION THE LITERARY GENRE

EXAMPLES:

This text is taken from Frankenstein (1), written by Mary Shelley (1) , Chapter 5.
(INCOMPLETE)

This excerpt was taken from the **Gothic Romantic novel** Frankenstein, or Modern Prometheus (2), written by the **British** author **Mary Shelley (1)** in 1818, chapter Five, which shows Frankenstein's anxiety after his creature woke up. (4PTS)
(COMPLETE)

• **What is it about?**

The general ideas , Summary, paraphrase (in your own words). **REPORT THE CONTENT OF THE TEXT, WITHOUT GETTING INTO TOO MANY DETAILS, AND WITHOUT INTERPRETATIONS.**

• **THE AUDIENCE: To whom is it directed?**

The readership **targeted**, What sort of audience is intended by the author to read his work?

- **The THEME:** The implied meaning that the author wishes to convey, the message itself, the moral inferred, the implicit statement hidden behind the plain words.

There is the theme of racism in this text, because Robinson chose to be called Master instead of his real name by Friday, he only taught Friday to say Yes and No instead of trying to understand him, and gave him the name "Friday" instead of trying to learn to pronounce his real name.

THEME+ EVIDENCE FROM THE TEXT (REPORT AN EVENT FROM THE TEXT, OR PROVIDE A DIRECT QUOTE)+ EXPLANATION.

- **Identify the literary genre**

What type of text is it? (sermon, epic poem, , poem, drama, theatre, comedy, tragedy, novel (TYPE OF THE NOVEL), short story, account of exploration, report, letter, pamphlet, etc...)

FORM/ TYPE OF THE TEXT + MOVEMENT: Romantic Gothic novel, realistic, symbolic, naturalistic, MODERNIST

Colonial (movement) Report of Exploration (genre)
 Religious Journal/ diary
 Political Pamphlet

- **Setting**

Place and **Time**, where and when does the action take place?

Identifying the place and time of the events is not enough, they have a significance, a symbolic meaning, eg. North and South, by Elizabeth Gaskell.

The events happened on Monday morning in London.

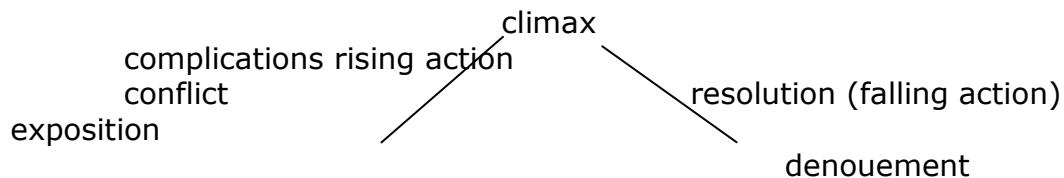
The events happened on Monday morning, when Clarissa was attacked by her companion, and escaped to London where she felt more safe.

- **Plot**

How does the action develop?

Plot is different from **story**, which means actions related **chronologically** (the king died then the queen died too) while plot means actions related **causally** (the king died then the queen died of grief).

Plot is the way actions are presented to create a structured whole and achieve an artistic effect. This implicitly means that plot and characters are interrelated ; chars. are linked to the plot because actions are performed by characters. The plot is an exposition of events raised into complications and conflict to reach a climax and then be resolved in the denouement which ends the conflict.



- Sometimes the story starts with the climax; the exposition of antecedents / complications is conveyed by **flashbacks**, (transitions to an earlier scene or event)
- Sometimes there is no denouement, there is an **open end**, left to the reader to supply according to his imagination, desire.

Plots can be based on intrigue, suspense, surprise.

- **IT CAN ALSO BE A Unified plot , OR A Subplot**

Characterization

Characters are the actors that perform the actions of the work. They can be human beings but can also be animals, abstractions, natural elements...(In Herman Melville's Moby Dick, the white whale and the sea are also characters).

- **The protagonist / hero**, central character to whom our sympathy goes
- **The antagonist**, adversary, in conflict with the protagonist. It can be a character, or fate, or an internal conflict between desire and reason.
- **Main (Major)**: very important character
- **Minor (secondary)** less important

There are 2 types of characters:

- **PSYCHOLOGY OF THE CHARACTER:**
- **Round characters** are complex, multidimensional; they have a vitality, are more **life-like**, **like human beings**, They have motives, they change and develop, they grow through experience. They do not remain the same all along the literary work.
- **Flat characters** are minor ones. They are types, **spokesmen for a social class, mouthpieces for the author's views; they voice a moral, a religious or philosophical concept; they symbolize abstractions, allegories:**

In Hard Times, Sissy Jupe stands for Love, Gradgrind for Reason, Tom for Selfishness...

- **Point of view :**
- **IT IS NOT AN OPINION**

- **VOICE OF THE NARRATOR**

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE NARRATOR AND AUTHOR

IN FRANKENSTEIN OR MODERN PROMETHEUS MARY IS THE AUTHOR (master) the one who invented the literary work, they do not exist in their literary work)

Victor IS THE NARRATOR (he is narrating the events that happened to him) the narrator is the one who does the action of telling the story OR EVENTS.

Who is speaking? The way the author presents his work. Do not confuse *author* and *narrator*, they are the same only in autobiographies.

There are two kinds of points of view:

- **First person point of view** the narrator is a character. It is characterized by the use of **I and we**. The author achieves immediacy with the reader, as if directly speaking to him. IF THE ACTION IS HAPPENING DIRECTLY TO THE SPEAKER
- **Central** when the **narrator is the central character (protagonist)** of the story (The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn) (FRANKENSTEIN)
- **Peripheral** when the narrator is not the hero BUT ANOTHER CHARACTER (Ned in Moby Dick).
- **Third person point of view** the most commonly used, characterized by the use of **he, she, they**. WITNESS OF THE ACTION
 - **Omniscient** (assuming **infinite knowledge and understanding**). The NARRATOR knows everything about each character and moves from one to another with complete freedom imparting their thoughts and feelings in turn.
 - **Limited** focuses on only one character, the field of vision is restricted to him or her alone. **ONLY KNOWS WHAT THEY SEE**. (Strether in Henry James's The Ambassadors and Winterbourne in "Daisy Miller").
- **Literary devices** used by the author to achieve his effect
 - **Register** : language. There are various levels of language: religious, formal, informal, colloquial, slang, taboo... Register is determined through:
 - **Diction** : word choice. Anglo-Saxon origin words (angry), are more precise while words of Latin origin (furious) are stronger, more emotionally loaded. **Native American origin**
 - **Figures of speech** : the figurative, indirect use of the language:
 - **Simile**: one thing is likened to another, a comparison using device *like* or *as* (explicit) She is **like** a rose.
 - **Metaphor**: one thing is described in terms of another, implicit comparison without the use of devices. She is a rose. He is a lion in battle. My love is a flame that burns in your name.

- **Personification** is the attribution of human qualities to inanimate objects. The sea breathes in every wave. "RAGING WAVE"
- **Apostrophe**: a thing, a place, an idea, a dead or absent person is addressed as if present and capable of understanding; to speak to something, mostly used in poetry. O sea, why have you drowned my children? With how sad steps, O Moon, thou climb'st the skies!
- **Hyperbole** is an exaggeration for emphasis.
I haven't seen you for ages. She cried rivers of tears.
Her beauty killed thousands of men.
- **Litotes** is an understatement for emphasis.
Not bad, mng very good. This is no mean achievement.
She was not a little upset.
- **Irony** what is meant is the opposite of what is actually written. This device is mainly used in satire to criticize social aspects. (You worked very well!)
- **Paradox** is the juxtaposition of opposites: Careless she is with artful care/ Affecting to seem unaffected
- **Analogy** is the comparison of two things, which are alike in several respects, for the purpose of explaining or clarifying some unfamiliar or difficult idea or object by showing how the idea or object is similar to some familiar one. A parallel situation, analogy is usually combined with
- **Reference** or **Allusion** is a causal and brief reference to a famous historical or literary figure or event: If you take his parking place, you can expect World War II all over again. Plan ahead: it wasn't raining when Noah built the ark.
- **Pun** is a play on words, the same expression can have several meanings; in Romeo and Juliet, Mercutio says
Come to me tomorrow and you will find me a grave man.

After long beating at sea they arrived at a good harbour :

- THEY ARRIVE AT A REAL HARBOUR. LITERAL MEANING
- THEY ARE NOW SAFE FROM THE DANGERS OF THE SEA.
Metaphorical meaning
- **Structure** examines the structure of the text at different levels
 - **Paragraph structure**: various paragraphs to treat different ideas, comparison, contrast, parallelism...
 - **Sentence structure**: long, short, grammatically correct sentences...
 - **Sound structure**: characteristic of poetry but found in prose to attract the reader's attention to important aspects
 - **Alliteration** is the repetition of consonants at the beginning of words or stressed syllables.
Betty Botter bought some butter
Around the rock the ragged rascal ran.
 - **Assonance** is the repetition of stressed vowel sounds within words with different end consonants, as in the phrase "quite like".
I saw old Autumn in the misty morn

The Lotos blooms below the barren peak:
The Lotos blows by every winding creek:
All day the wind breathes low with mellower tones

- **Tone** is the reflection of the **author's** attitude through his work (feeling found in it); happiness, sadness, detachment, anger, irritation...

IF I WAS THE AUTHOR, HOW DO I FEEL ABOUT THESE EVENTS? HOW DO I FEEL ABOUT THE CHARACTERS I'VE JUST MADE?

- **Atmosphere** is the mood evoked by the work of art (background); mystery and darkness in Hamlet, gloom in "The fall of the House of Usher"; humour in The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn.

IF I WAS A CHARACTER, HOW DO I FEEL INSIDE THE TEXT?

Conclusion

Recapitulate the most important aspects of the analysis.

Evaluate, assess the achievement of the author, whether he succeeded to convey his theme.

Give your opinion.

NEVER USE PERSONAL PRONOUNS: I, WE, YOU, MY, YOUR, MYSELF. DO NOT SPEAK TO THE READER. "YOU NEED COURAGE TO SURVIVE"= HUMAN BEINGS NEED COURAGE TO SURVIVE

~~WE HAVE~~ = THERE IS

NEVER SAY "IN MY OPINION", "I think", say directly what you think!!

~~I think that mary Shelley was harsh to her character~~

Finally, mary Shelley was harsh to her character as she made him lose his entire relationships