

**Thematic Analysis of the Novel Worksheet**

Use the following questions and directions as a guide to planning your drama or movie review.

**First, tackle the nitty-gritty elements.**

1. What is the title of novel you will analyze?
2. Who is the author? Does the biography of this person show up in the novel? If so, explain.
3. Who are the main characters (e. g., protagonist, antagonist, supporting roles)?  
What types of characters are they (e. g., round/flat, static/dynamic, stock/foil)?  
Are they believable?  
Do they fulfill what you believe to be the author's main message, moral, or theme?
4. In one or two sentences, summarize the main plot. If necessary, summarize any sub-plots you plan to address in your essay.  
When and where is the action set?  
From whose POV is the story told?  
Are there any inconsistencies or historical inaccuracies?  
Is the author alluding to a historical person or circumstance?
5. Does the story follow the traditional plot lines? If not, why might the author break with tradition?
6. What symbols appear in the novel and how do they work to achieve the author's main message, moral, or theme?  
Are any of these symbols familiar to you? If so, explain.  
What types of symbols are they (e. g., figurative, traditional, or personal)?

**Then, form an opinion about the novel and provide evidence to support it.**

1. In your own words, state what you believe to be the author's main message, moral, or theme; or imagine that your friends have asked you whether or not they should read the book and give them your opinion. This statement will be your thesis.
2. Provide two or three reasons why you believe the above statement is the author's main message, moral, or theme, or why your friends should see it. These facts will form the evidence or assertions to back up your thesis.
3. For each of those reasons, find a quote or paraphrase piece of dialogue or narration that exemplify those reasons. These facts will support your evidence or assertions, which in turn will prove your thesis.