

COMMENTARY/ANALYSIS OF QUOTES

Analyzing quotes is not as difficult as one may think! We will walk you through the steps to create an amazing analysis.

1. Restate the meaning of your quote. What is this quote stating? Are there important symbols? Themes? Literary devices?
 - a. When you pull out the important information of your quote, begin to form it into your sentence!
 - i. NEVER start of your analysis with something like “this shows”, “the author says/states this because”
 - ii. In general, avoid “this” in your analysis, it weakens it
 - iii. Instead, use phrases like, “(authors name) emphasize the theme of ____ by informing the reader that ____”. Depending on your piece, the wording of your analysis will be different
 - iv. Here’s an example of a good analysis
 1. “Tralfamdorians had taken him through a time warp, so that he could be on Tralfamadore for years, and still only be away from Earth for a microsecond” (Vonnegut 33). Vonnegut illustrates that Billy believes that his time traveling started because of his time at Tralfamadore.
 2. This is a good example because this analyzes the quote by stating what the author is highlighting, along with indirect characterization of Billy (the main character).

Ways to Analyze A Quote

1. Tone- the author’s attitude toward the subject
 - Gloomy- darkness, sadness, rejection
 - Morose- gloomy, sullen, surly, despondent
 - Optimistic- hopeful, cheerful
 - Solemn- deeply earnest, tending toward sad reflection
 - Jovial- happy
 - Judgemental- authoritative and often having critical opinions
 - Forthright- directly frank without hesitation
 - Condescending- a feeling of superiority

- Cynical- questions the basic sincerity and goodness of people
- Bitter- exhibiting strong animosity as a result of pain or grief

2. Diction

- Vulgar- coarse, indecent, tasteless
- Homespun- folksy, homey, native
- Artificial- false
- Concrete- actual, specific, particular
- Positive or Negative Connotation- alludes to
- Emotional- expresses emotions
- Figurative- serving as an illustration

3. Commonly used literary devices

- Metaphor: direct comparison between two unlike things (“His home was a prison”)
- Simile: Compares two clauses using like or as (“He wept like a baby”)
- Personification: Attributing human qualities to something non-human (“The wind whistled as he ran by”)
- Hyperbole: an exaggeration (“I’m dying of exhaustion”)
- Repetition: Words expressed more than once (“I have a dream”-Dr. Martin Luther King’s “I Have A Dream” speech)
- Verbal Irony: Saying one thing and meaning the opposite
- Dramatic Irony: The audience knows more than the character
- Situational Irony: Discrepancy between the expected result and the actual results
- Direct Characterization: Author directly reveals a personality trait
- Indirect Characterization- Author forces judgments about the character
- Flashback: rewinds to a previous event
- Foreshadowing: fast-forwards to an upcoming event

4. Argument Terms

- Assertion: a categorical statement about human nature
- Claim: the main point of an argument
- Fallacy: use of faulty logic or poor arguments
- Implication: a logical reasoning
- Inference: reasoning from factual knowledge
- Rebuttal: to offer a contrary argument
- Refute: to successfully argue against something
- Ethos: an appeal to credibility
- Pathos: an appeal to logic
- Logos: an appeal to emotion