

Write a Literary Analysis

The transition from childhood to adulthood can be complicated, as you have learned in this collection. In this activity, you will write a literary analysis about what the theme of “Marigolds” reveals about that transition and explore how the story’s theme is relevant to modern life.

A successful literary analysis

- cites evidence from the text that strongly supports the writer’s ideas and analysis
- is organized in a way that is appropriate to purpose and audience
- conveys ideas through the selection, organization, and analysis of relevant content

8.RL.1.1 Cite textual evidence to support analysis.

8.RL.1.2 Determine theme.

8.W.1.2a–f Write informative/explanatory texts.

8.W.2.5 Develop and strengthen writing.

8.W.3.9a Apply grade 8 Reading standards to literature.

8.W.4.10 Write routinely over extended time frames and shorter time frames.

PLAN

Analyze the Story Refresh your memory of “Marigolds.”

- Reread “Marigolds” to review the lesson or theme that stands out for you. Consider Lizabeth’s experiences as a teenager, as well as her view of those experiences as an adult.
- Take notes about evidence from the text that reveals the story’s theme. Remember to look for clues in the story’s setting and in symbols that represent ideas or feelings.
- Though “Marigolds” is set in the 1930s, many adolescents today can recognize something of themselves in Lizabeth’s feelings or actions. List some ways that the story’s theme connects to modern trends or to the experiences of modern teens.

Consider Audience and Purpose Think about your readers and what they need to know to understand and appreciate your literary analysis.

- Keep in mind that peers, and especially classmates who have read this collection, may be more in tune with issues and experiences related to adolescence than older readers.
- Decide how you will appeal to readers who may have different views about the theme of the story.

myNotebook

Use the annotation tools in your eBook to find evidence in the text that supports your ideas about the story’s theme.

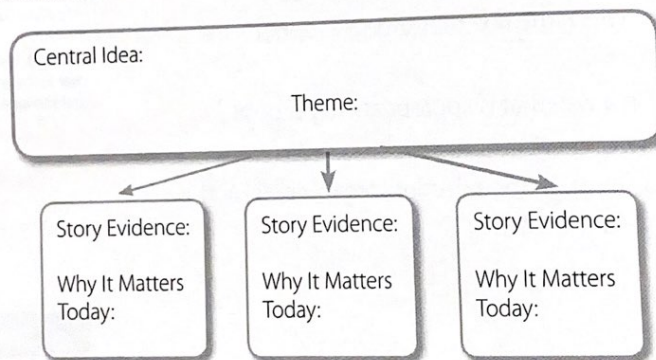
ACADEMIC VOCABULARY

As you share what you learned about the transition to adulthood, be sure to use the academic vocabulary words.

debate
deduce
license
sufficient
trend

Develop a Central Idea Use your notes about "Marigolds" to plan your analysis.

- Draft your central idea. This idea is the main point you want to make in your analysis, so everything you discuss should relate to it. Remember that you can modify or refine your central idea as needed when you write.
- Decide what theme you will discuss, and identify evidence from the story that reveals the theme and supports your thoughts.
- Create a graphic organizer like this one to help you plan your writing. Use it to note how different aspects of the story might resonate with modern teenagers.



PRODUCE

Write Your Literary Analysis Use your notes and your graphic organizer to draft your literary analysis.

- Start with an attention-grabbing question or comment, and state your central idea to introduce your analysis. Provide a brief summary of the story.
- Organize your ideas in a logical way. You may wish to discuss the theme along with related story evidence, and then explain how the theme is relevant for today's young people. Another option would be to organize around the major events in the story, explaining how each one helps to reveal the theme and connects to today's teenagers.
- Be sure to include concrete details, quotations, or other examples from the story to support your ideas.
- Conclude your analysis with a summary of your main points and your own insights about the theme.

myWriteSmart

Write your rough draft in myWriteSmart. Focus on getting your ideas down, rather than on perfecting your choice of language.

REVISE

Review Your Draft Use the chart on the next page to evaluate your draft. Work with a partner to determine whether you have achieved your purpose. Consider the following:

- Examine your central idea to decide whether it clearly represents the focus you have chosen.
- Review the flow of ideas in your analysis to be sure the organization is clear and logical.
- Check whether you have included sufficient supporting evidence from the story.
- Evaluate whether your conclusion restates your main points and offers insight about the theme's relevance.

myWriteSmart

Have your partner or a group of peers review your draft in myWriteSmart. Ask your reviewers to note any reasons that do not support the claim or that lack sufficient evidence.

PRESENT

Create a Finished Copy Finalize your literary analysis. Then choose a way to share it with your audience. Consider these options:

- Present your literary analysis in a speech to your classmates.
- Send your analysis to a magazine that publishes articles of interest to adolescents.
- Organize a debate in which you and other classmates argue your views about the relevance of "Marigolds" for today's teenagers.

COLLECTION 4 TASK A

LITERARY ANALYSIS

	Ideas and Evidence	Organization	Language
ADVANCED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The central idea clearly identifies the story's theme and its relevance. Specific, relevant details support key points in the analysis. The concluding section summarizes the analysis and offers an insight. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key points and supporting details are organized effectively and logically throughout the literary analysis. Transitions successfully show the relationships between ideas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Language is precise and captures the writer's thoughts with originality. Grammar, usage, and mechanics are correct.
COMPETENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The central idea makes a point about the relevance of the theme. Some key points need more support. The concluding section summarizes most of the analysis but doesn't offer an insight. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The organization of key points and supporting details is confusing in a few places. A few more transitions are needed to clarify the relationships between ideas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most language is precise and shows some originality. Some errors in grammar, usage, and mechanics occur.
LIMITED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The central idea only hints at a main point. Details support some key points but often are too general. The concluding section gives an incomplete summary without insight. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most key points are organized logically, but many supporting details are out of place. More transitions are needed throughout the literary analysis to connect ideas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Language is repetitive or too general at times. Many errors in grammar, usage, and mechanics occur, but the writer's ideas are still clear.
EMERGING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The central idea is missing. Details and evidence are irrelevant or missing. The literary analysis lacks a concluding section. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A logical organization is not apparent. Transitions are not used. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Language is inaccurate, repetitive, and too general. Errors in grammar, usage, and mechanics obscure the meaning of the writer's ideas.