

writing a literary analysis through the lens of a quotation

Writing a Literary Analysis Through the Lens of a Quotation: A Comprehensive Guide

Introduction:

Unlocking the deeper meanings hidden within literature can be a thrilling intellectual journey. One powerful tool for literary analysis is the strategic use of a compelling quotation. This isn't just about finding a relevant quote; it's about using it as a lens to refract and illuminate the complexities of the text. This comprehensive guide will equip you with the skills and strategies to craft a compelling literary analysis that leverages a chosen quotation effectively, ultimately boosting your understanding and analytical abilities. We'll explore the process from selecting the perfect quote to crafting a nuanced argument and presenting it persuasively. Prepare to transform your literary analysis from a simple summary to a sophisticated exploration of meaning.

1. Selecting the Perfect Quotation: The Foundation of Your Analysis

The success of your analysis hinges on the initial selection of your quotation. It must be more than just relevant; it must be pivotal. Consider these factors:

Relevance: Does the quotation directly address a key theme, character trait, or narrative element within the literary work? Avoid tangential quotes.

Ambiguity & Depth: A quote with inherent ambiguity offers richer analytical possibilities. It should invite multiple interpretations and provoke deeper thought. Simple, straightforward statements are less effective.

Illustrative Power: Can the quotation serve as a microcosm of a larger idea present in the text? Does it encapsulate a significant conflict or reveal a crucial aspect of character development?

Context: Consider the context of the quote within the original text. How does its placement and surrounding dialogue influence its meaning? Ignoring context can lead to misinterpretation.

Choosing the right quote is like choosing the right lens for a microscope – it determines the clarity and focus of your entire analysis.

2. Deconstructing the Quotation: Unveiling its Layers of Meaning

Once you've selected your quotation, meticulously deconstruct it. This involves:

Identifying Key Words & Phrases: Analyze the specific words and phrases for their connotations and denotations. What are the possible interpretations of each element? Consider the use of figurative

language (metaphors, similes, etc.).

Determining the Speaker's Intent: Who is speaking? What is their motivation? How does their perspective influence the meaning of the quotation? Understanding the speaker's background and position is crucial.

Exploring Underlying Themes & Motifs: How does the quotation relate to broader themes and motifs present in the literary work? Does it highlight a central conflict or reveal a hidden truth?

Analyzing Tone & Style: What is the tone of the quotation? Is it ironic, sarcastic, hopeful, despairing? How does the author's stylistic choices contribute to the overall meaning?

This detailed deconstruction will form the bedrock of your argument and allow you to create a nuanced interpretation.

3. Weaving the Quotation into Your Analysis: Structure and Argumentation

Integrating your chosen quotation seamlessly into your analysis is critical. Avoid simply dropping the quote into the essay; instead, build your argument around it.

Introduce the Quotation: Provide sufficient context before introducing the quotation. Explain its significance within the larger work.

Analyze the Quotation in Detail: This is where your deconstruction comes into play. Support your interpretation with textual evidence from the literary work.

Connect to Broader Themes: Show how the quotation illuminates broader themes, motifs, or character development in the text. Use specific examples to support your claims.

Develop a Thesis Statement: Your thesis statement should directly address how the chosen quotation helps illuminate a key aspect of the literary work. This statement should guide your entire analysis.

Maintain a Consistent Focus: Ensure that all aspects of your analysis directly relate to the chosen quotation and its implications.

Avoid straying from your central argument; every point should contribute to a cohesive understanding of the text through the lens of your quotation.

4. Supporting Your Argument with Textual Evidence: The Cornerstone of Credibility

Your analysis must be grounded in concrete evidence from the literary work. Don't rely on generalizations or subjective opinions. Instead:

Cite Specific Passages: Use direct quotations and precise page numbers to support your claims. This demonstrates your thorough engagement with the text.

Analyze the Evidence: Don't simply quote; explain how the evidence supports your interpretation of the selected quotation and its relevance to the broader text.

Address Counterarguments: Acknowledge and address potential counterarguments to demonstrate a thorough and nuanced understanding of the literary work.

Maintain Academic Integrity: Properly cite all sources to avoid plagiarism. Use a consistent citation style (MLA, APA, Chicago, etc.).

Solid textual evidence is your most powerful tool for convincing your reader of the validity of your analysis.

5. Crafting a Conclusion: Summarizing and Extending Your Insights

Your conclusion should not simply restate your thesis. Instead, aim to:

Summarize Your Key Findings: Briefly recap your main points, emphasizing how the chosen quotation illuminated key aspects of the literary work.

Offer New Perspectives: Consider extending your analysis by suggesting new interpretations or exploring the implications of your findings.

Connect to Broader Contexts: Consider connecting your analysis to broader literary, historical, or social contexts.

Leave a Lasting Impression: Conclude with a thought-provoking statement that reinforces the significance of your analysis.

A strong conclusion leaves the reader with a sense of closure and encourages further reflection on the literary work.

Sample Literary Analysis Outline: "The Great Gatsby" by F. Scott Fitzgerald

Title: The Illusion of the American Dream: Exploring Gatsby's Fate Through a Key Quotation

Introduction: Introduce "The Great Gatsby," establish the theme of the American Dream, and introduce the chosen quotation: "So we beat on, boats against the current, borne back ceaselessly into the past."

Chapter 1: Deconstructing the Quotation: Analyze the imagery, symbolism, and implications of Fitzgerald's quote.

Chapter 2: Gatsby's Pursuit: Examine Gatsby's relentless pursuit of the past and how it relates to the quotation. Use textual evidence from the novel.

Chapter 3: The Illusion of the American Dream: Discuss how Gatsby's failure reflects the unattainability of the American Dream, connecting it back to the quote.

Chapter 4: Counterarguments and Nuances: Address potential counterarguments and explore the complexities of the American Dream's portrayal.

Conclusion: Summarize the analysis, offer new perspectives on Gatsby's fate and the novel's central themes, and leave a thought-provoking final statement.

FAQs

1. Can I use more than one quotation in my literary analysis? While focusing on one key quotation is generally recommended for a focused analysis, you can certainly incorporate supporting quotations to strengthen your argument. Just ensure they are carefully integrated and serve a clear purpose.

1. What if I can't find a perfect quotation? If you're struggling, try exploring different themes or focusing on specific character interactions. Sometimes, a seemingly minor quote can reveal significant insights when analyzed closely.

1. How long should my literary analysis be? The length will depend on the assignment's requirements, but aim for sufficient depth and detail to thoroughly explore your chosen quotation and its implications.

1. What citation style should I use? Follow the style guide specified by your instructor or publication. MLA, APA, and Chicago are common choices.

1. Can I use a quotation from a secondary source about the literary work? While primary sources (the literary work itself) are preferred, secondary sources can provide valuable context or support your interpretation. Always cite them properly.

1. How do I avoid plagiarism? Always properly cite your sources using a consistent citation style. Paraphrasing effectively and accurately is crucial.

1. What if my interpretation is different from established critical opinions? Original interpretations are valued, but ensure your analysis is well-supported by textual evidence and logical reasoning.

1. How can I make my analysis more engaging? Use vivid language, varied sentence structures, and thoughtful transitions to create a compelling narrative.

1. Where can I find more resources on literary analysis? Consult your instructor, library resources, and reputable online sources for additional guidance and examples.

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writing a literary analysis through the lens of a quotation: How to Read Like a Writer

Mike Bunn, When you Read Like a Writer (RLW) you work to identify some of the choices the author made so that you can better understand how such choices might arise in your own writing. The idea is to carefully examine the things you read, looking at the writerly techniques in the text in order to decide if you might want to adopt similar (or the same) techniques in your writing. You are reading to learn about writing. Instead of reading for content or to better understand the ideas in the writing (which you will automatically do to some degree anyway), you are trying to understand how the piece of writing was put together by the author and what you can learn about writing by reading a particular text. As you read in this way, you think about how the choices the author made and the techniques that he/she used are influencing your own responses as a reader. What is it about the way this text is written that makes you feel and respond the way you do?

writing a literary analysis through the lens of a quotation: Long Way Down Jason Reynolds, 2017-10-24 "An intense snapshot of the chain reaction caused by pulling a trigger." —Booklist (starred review) "Astonishing." —Kirkus Reviews (starred review) "A tour de force." —Publishers Weekly (starred review) A Newbery Honor Book A Coretta Scott King Honor Book A Printz Honor Book A Time Best YA Book of All Time (2021) A Los Angeles Times Book Prize Winner for Young Adult Literature Longlisted for the National Book Award for Young People's Literature Winner of the Walter Dean Myers Award An Edgar Award Winner for Best Young Adult Fiction

Parents' Choice Gold Award Winner An Entertainment Weekly Best YA Book of 2017 A Vulture Best YA Book of 2017 A BuzzFeed Best YA Book of 2017 An ode to Put the Damn Guns Down, this is New York Times bestselling author Jason Reynolds's electrifying novel that takes place in sixty potent seconds—the time it takes a kid to decide whether or not he's going to murder the guy who killed his brother. A cannon. A strap. A piece. A biscuit. A burner. A heater. A chopper. A gat. A hammer A tool for RULE Or, you can call it a gun. That's what fifteen-year-old Will has shoved in the back waistband of his jeans. See, his brother Shawn was just murdered. And Will knows the rules. No crying. No snitching. Revenge. That's where Will's now heading, with that gun shoved in the back waistband of his jeans, the gun that was his brother's gun. He gets on the elevator, seventh floor, stoked. He knows who he's after. Or does he? As the elevator stops on the sixth floor, on comes Buck. Buck, Will finds out, is who gave Shawn the gun before Will took the gun. Buck tells Will to check that the gun is even loaded. And that's when Will sees that one bullet is missing. And the only one who could have fired Shawn's gun was Shawn. Huh. Will didn't know that Shawn had ever actually USED his gun. Bigger huh. BUCK IS DEAD. But Buck's in the elevator? Just as Will's trying to think this through, the door to the next floor opens. A teenage girl gets on, waves away the smoke from Dead Buck's cigarette. Will doesn't know her, but she knew him. Knew. When they were eight. And stray bullets had cut through the playground, and Will had tried to cover her, but she was hit anyway, and so what she wants to know, on that fifth floor elevator stop, is, what if Will, Will with the gun shoved in the back waistband of his jeans, MISSES. And so it goes, the whole long way down, as the elevator stops on each floor, and at each stop someone connected to his brother gets on to give Will a piece to a bigger story than the one he thinks he knows. A story that might never know an END...if Will gets off that elevator. Told in short, fierce staccato narrative verse, *Long Way Down* is a fast and furious, dazzlingly brilliant look at teenage gun violence, as could only be told by Jason Reynolds.

writing a literary analysis through the lens of a quotation: *Passing* Nella Larsen, 2022 Harlem Renaissance author Nella Larsen (1891 -1964) published just two novels and three short stories in her lifetime, but achieved lasting literary acclaim. Her classic novel *Passing* first appeared in 1926.

writing a literary analysis through the lens of a quotation: *Before Gatsby* Francis Scott Fitzgerald, Matthew Joseph Bruccoli, Judith Baughman, 2001 A collection of commercial short stories F. Scott Fitzgerald published before he began to work on what would become his great American novel, *The Great Gatsby*.--Back cover.

writing a literary analysis through the lens of a quotation: *The Great Gatsby* F Scott Fitzgerald, 2021-01-13 Set in the 1920's Jazz Age on Long Island, *The Great Gatsby* chronicles narrator Nick Carraway's interactions with the mysterious millionaire Jay Gatsby and Gatsby's obsession to reunite with his former lover, the beautiful Daisy Buchanan. First published in 1925, the book has enthralled generations of readers and is considered one of the greatest American novels.

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writing a literary analysis through the lens of a quotation: *Lord of the Flies* William Golding, 2012-09-20 A plane crashes on a desert island and the only survivors, a group of

schoolboys, assemble on the beach and wait to be rescued. By day they inhabit a land of bright fantastic birds and dark blue seas, but at night their dreams are haunted by the image of a terrifying beast. As the boys' delicate sense of order fades, so their childish dreams are transformed into something more primitive, and their behaviour starts to take on a murderous, savage significance. First published in 1954, *Lord of the Flies* is one of the most celebrated and widely read of modern classics. Now fully revised and updated, this educational edition includes chapter summaries, comprehension questions, discussion points, classroom activities, a biographical profile of Golding, historical context relevant to the novel and an essay on *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding entitled 'Fable'. Aimed at Key Stage 3 and 4 students, it also includes a section on literary theory for advanced or A-level students. The educational edition encourages original and independent thinking while guiding the student through the text - ideal for use in the classroom and at home.

writing a literary analysis through the lens of a quotation: The Riddle of the Rosetta Stone James Cross Giblin, 1993-02-28 Until the Rosetta Stone was finally translated and the decoding of hieroglyphic writing made possible, much of Egyptian history was lost. The author has done a masterful job of distilling information, citing the highlights, and fitting it all together in an interesting and enlightening look at a puzzling subject. —H. The social and intellectual history here are fascinating. A handsome, inspiring book. —K. Notable Children's Books of 1991 (ALA) Notable 1990 Children's Trade Books in Social Studies (NCSS/CBC) Children's Books of 1990 (Library of Congress) 100 Books for Reading and Sharing (NY Public Library) Parenting Honorable Mention, Reading Magic Award

writing a literary analysis through the lens of a quotation: The Catcher in the Rye J. D. Salinger, 2024-06-28 *The Catcher in the Rye*, written by J.D. Salinger and published in 1951, is a classic American novel that explores the themes of adolescence, alienation, and identity through the eyes of its protagonist, Holden Caulfield. The novel is set in the 1950s and follows Holden, a 16-year-old who has just been expelled from his prep school, Pencey Prep. Disillusioned with the world around him, Holden decides to leave Pencey early and spend a few days alone in New York City before returning home. Over the course of these days, Holden interacts with various people, including old friends, a former teacher, and strangers, all the while grappling with his feelings of loneliness and dissatisfaction. Holden is deeply troubled by the 'phoniness' of the adult world and is haunted by the death of his younger brother, Allie, which has left a lasting impact on him. He fantasizes about being 'the catcher in the rye,' a guardian who saves children from losing their innocence by catching them before they fall off a cliff into adulthood. The novel ends with Holden in a mental institution, where he is being treated for a nervous breakdown. He expresses some hope for the future, indicating a possible path to recovery..

writing a literary analysis through the lens of a quotation: Patron Saints of Nothing Randy Ribay, 2020-04-21 A NATIONAL BOOK AWARD FINALIST Brilliant, honest, and equal parts heartbreaking and soul-healing. --Laurie Halse Anderson, author of *SHOUT* A singular voice in the world of literature. --Jason Reynolds, author of *Long Way Down* A powerful coming-of-age story about grief, guilt, and the risks a Filipino-American teenager takes to uncover the truth about his cousin's murder. Jay Reguero plans to spend the last semester of his senior year playing video games before heading to the University of Michigan in the fall. But when he discovers that his Filipino cousin Jun was murdered as part of President Duterte's war on drugs, and no one in the family wants to talk about what happened, Jay travels to the Philippines to find out the real story. Hoping to uncover more about Jun and the events that led to his death, Jay is forced to reckon with the many sides of his cousin before he can face the whole horrible truth -- and the part he played in it. As gripping as it is lyrical, *Patron Saints of Nothing* is a page-turning portrayal of the struggle to reconcile faith, family, and immigrant identity.

writing a literary analysis through the lens of a quotation: Anna in the Tropics Nilo Cruz, 2010-10 Winner of the 2003 Pulitzer Prize for Drama, this lush romantic drama depicts a family of cigar makers whose loves and lives are played out against the backdrop of America in the midst of the Depression. Set in Ybor City (Tampa) in 1930, Cruz imagines the catalytic effect the arrival of a

new "lector (who reads Tolstoy's *Anna Karenina* to the workers as they toil in the cigar factory) has on a Cuban-American family. Cruz celebrates the search for identity in a new land.

writing a literary analysis through the lens of a quotation: *Passage* Connie Willis, 2009-12-09 One of those rare, unforgettable novels that are as chilling as they are insightful, as thought-provoking as they are terrifying, award-winning author Connie Willis's *Passage* is an astonishing blend of relentless suspense and cutting-edge science unlike anything you've ever read before. It is the electrifying story of a psychologist who has devoted her life to tracking death. But when she volunteers for a research project that simulates the near-death experience, she will either solve life's greatest mystery -- or fall victim to its greatest terror. At Mercy General Hospital, Dr. Joanna Lander will soon be paged -- not to save a life, but to interview a patient just back from the dead. A psychologist specializing in near-death experiences, Joanna has spent two years recording the experiences of those who have been declared clinically dead and lived to tell about it. It's research on the fringes of ordinary science, but Joanna is about to get a boost from an unexpected quarter. A new doctor has arrived at Mercy General, one with the power to give Joanna the chance to get as close to death as anyone can. A brilliant young neurologist, Dr. Richard Wright has come up with a way to manufacture the near-death experience using a psychoactive drug. Dr. Wright is convinced that the NDE is a survival mechanism and that if only doctors understood how it worked, they could someday delay the dying process, or maybe even reverse it. He can use the expertise of a psychologist of Joanna Lander's standing to lend credibility to his study. But he soon needs Joanna for more than just her reputation. When his key volunteer suddenly drops out of the study, Joanna finds herself offering to become Richard's next subject. After all, who better than she, a trained psychologist, to document the experience? Her first NDE is as fascinating as she imagined it would be -- so astounding that she knows she must go back, if only to find out why this place is so hauntingly familiar. But each time Joanna goes under, her sense of dread begins to grow, because part of her already knows why the experience is so familiar, and why she has every reason to be afraid.... And just when you think you know where she is going, Willis throws in the biggest surprise of all -- a shattering scenario that will keep you feverishly reading until the final climactic page is turned.

writing a literary analysis through the lens of a quotation: *"They Say"* Gerald Graff, Cathy Birkenstein, 2016 THIS TITLE HAS BEEN UPDATED TO REFLECT THE 2016 MLA UPDATE. The New York Times best-selling book on academic writing--in use at more than 1,500 schools.

writing a literary analysis through the lens of a quotation: *The Truth about Stories* Thomas King, 2003 Winner of the 2003 Trillium Book Award *Stories* are wondrous things, award-winning author and scholar Thomas King declares in his 2003 CBC Massey Lectures. And they are dangerous. Beginning with a traditional Native oral story, King weaves his way through literature and history, religion and politics, popular culture and social protest, gracefully elucidating North America's relationship with its Native peoples. Native culture has deep ties to storytelling, and yet no other North American culture has been the subject of more erroneous stories. The Indian of fact, as King says, bears little resemblance to the literary Indian, the dying Indian, the construct so powerfully and often destructively projected by White North America. With keen perception and wit, King illustrates that stories are the key to, and only hope for, human understanding. He compels us to listen well.

writing a literary analysis through the lens of a quotation: *The Sense of an Ending* Julian Barnes, 2011-10-05 BOOKER PRIZE WINNER • NATIONAL BESTSELLER • A novel that follows a middle-aged man as he contends with a past he never much thought about—until his closest childhood friends return with a vengeance: one of them from the grave, another maddeningly present. A novel so compelling that it begs to be read in a single setting, *The Sense of an Ending* has the psychological and emotional depth and sophistication of Henry James at his best, and is a stunning achievement in Julian Barnes's oeuvre. Tony Webster thought he left his past behind as he built a life for himself, and his career has provided him with a secure retirement and an amicable relationship with his ex-wife and daughter, who now has a family of her own. But when he is

presented with a mysterious legacy, he is forced to revise his estimation of his own nature and place in the world.

writing a literary analysis through the lens of a quotation: *The Book of Psalms Through the Lens of Intertextuality* Beth LaNeel Tanner, 2001 Even in an era of expanding methodologies for biblical studies, psalms study seems to be stuck in the old tracks of form criticism. While often beneficial, form criticism excludes two important ways of reading the psalms: that of reading the psalms with the narratives of the Hebrew Scriptures as the historical superscriptions suggest, and that of a feminist reading by expanding an exclusive focus on the cult. This book looks to correct these problems by investigating the psalms via intertextual method, both by seeing the psalms as intertextual - made up of a multitude of other texts - and by reading the psalms intertextually with texts outside the psalms. This book also introduces the reader to the variety of intertextual theories in the literary guild and develops an intertextual hermeneutic of biblical study based on these theories that bridges the gap between literary theory and the practice of biblical interpretation.

writing a literary analysis through the lens of a quotation: *One of Us Is Lying* Karen M. McManus, 2017-06-01 The international bestselling YA thriller by acclaimed author Karen M. McManus - now available in a bold new cover look complete with a blood red background and matching sprayed edges. Five students walk into detention. Only four come out alive. Yale hopeful Bronwyn has never publicly broken a rule. Sports star Cooper only knows what he's doing in the baseball diamond. Bad boy Nate is one misstep away from a life of crime. Prom queen Addy is holding together the cracks in her perfect life. And outsider Simon, creator of the notorious gossip app at Bayview High, won't ever talk about any of them again. He dies 24 hours before he could post their deepest secrets online. Investigators conclude it's no accident. All of them are suspects. Everyone has secrets, right? What really matters is how far you'll go to protect them. 'Tightly plotted and brilliantly written, with sharp, believable characters, this whodunit is utterly irresistible' - HEAT 'Twisty plotting, breakneck pacing and intriguing characterisation add up to an exciting single-sitting thrillerish treat' - THE GUARDIAN 'A fantastic murder mystery, packed with cryptic clues and countless plot twists. I could not put this book down' - THE SUN 'Pretty Little Liars meets The Breakfast Club' - ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY But the story doesn't end here, it continues with *One of Us Is Next*. . .

writing a literary analysis through the lens of a quotation: *The Poet X* Elizabeth Acevedo, 2018-03-06 Winner of the National Book Award for Young People's Literature, the Michael L. Printz Award, and the Pura Belpré Award! Fans of Jacqueline Woodson, Meg Medina, and Jason Reynolds will fall hard for this astonishing New York Times-bestselling novel-in-verse by an award-winning slam poet, about an Afro-Latina heroine who tells her story with blazing words and powerful truth. Xiomara Batista feels unheard and unable to hide in her Harlem neighborhood. Ever since her body grew into curves, she has learned to let her fists and her fierceness do the talking. But Xiomara has plenty she wants to say, and she pours all her frustration and passion onto the pages of a leather notebook, reciting the words to herself like prayers—especially after she catches feelings for a boy in her bio class named Aman, who her family can never know about. With Mami's determination to force her daughter to obey the laws of the church, Xiomara understands that her thoughts are best kept to herself. So when she is invited to join her school's slam poetry club, she doesn't know how she could ever attend without her mami finding out. But she still can't stop thinking about performing her poems. Because in the face of a world that may not want to hear her, Xiomara refuses to be silent. "Crackles with energy and snaps with authenticity and voice." —Justina Ireland, author of *Dread Nation* "An incredibly potent debut." —Jason Reynolds, author of the National Book Award Finalist *Ghost* "Acevedo has amplified the voices of girls en el barrio who are equal parts goddess, saint, warrior, and hero." —Ibi Zoboi, author of *American Street* This young adult novel, a selection of the Schomburg Center's Black Liberation Reading List, is an excellent choice for accelerated tween readers in grades 6 to 8. Plus don't miss Elizabeth Acevedo's *With the Fire on High* and *Clap When You Land*!

writing a literary analysis through the lens of a quotation: *That Deadman Dance* Kim

Scott, 2012-03-07 Set in Western Australia in the first decades of the nineteenth century, *That Deadman Dance* is a vast, gorgeous novel about the first contact between the Aboriginal Noongar people and the new European settlers. Bobby Wabalanginy is a young Noongar man, smart, resourceful, and eager to please. He befriends the European arrivals, joining them as they hunt whales, till the land, and establish their new colony. He is welcomed into a prosperous white family, and eventually finds himself falling in love with the daughter, Christine. But slowly-by design and by hazard-things begin to change. Not everyone is happy with how the colony is progressing. Livestock mysteriously start to disappear, crops are destroyed, there are accidents and injuries on both sides. As the Europeans impose ever-stricter rules and regulations in order to keep the peace, Bobby's Elders decide they must respond in kind, and Bobby is forced to take sides, inexorably drawn into a series of events that will forever change the future of his country. *That Deadman Dance* is inevitably tragic, as most stories of European and native contact are. But through Bobby's life, Kim Scott exuberantly explores a moment in time when things could have been different, when black and white lived together in amazement rather than fear of the other, and when the world seemed suddenly twice as large and twice as promising. At once celebratory and heartbreaking, this novel is a unique and important contribution to the literature of native experience.

writing a literary analysis through the lens of a quotation: Digging Into Literature

Joanna Wolfe, Laura Wilder, 2015-11-17 *Digging Into Literature* reveals the critical strategies that any college student can use for reading, analyzing, and writing about literary texts. It is based on a groundbreaking study of the successful interpretive and argumentative moves of more than a thousand professional and student essays. Full of practical charts and summaries, with plenty of exercises and activities for trying out the strategies, the book convincingly reveals that while great literature is profoundly and endlessly complex, writing cogent and effective essays about it doesn't have to be.

writing a literary analysis through the lens of a quotation: Writing Anthropology Carole McGranahan, 2020-05-01 In *Writing Anthropology*, fifty-two anthropologists reflect on scholarly writing as both craft and commitment. These short essays cover a wide range of territory, from ethnography, genre, and the politics of writing to affect, storytelling, authorship, and scholarly responsibility. Anthropological writing is more than just communicating findings: anthropologists write to tell stories that matter, to be accountable to the communities in which they do their research, and to share new insights about the world in ways that might change it for the better. The contributors offer insights into the beauty and the function of language and the joys and pains of writing while giving encouragement to stay at it—to keep writing as the most important way to not only improve one's writing but to also honor the stories and lessons learned through research. Throughout, they share new thoughts, prompts, and agitations for writing that will stimulate conversations that cut across the humanities. Contributors. Whitney Battle-Baptiste, Jane Eva Baxter, Ruth Behar, Adia Benton, Lauren Berlant, Robin M. Bernstein, Sarah Besky, Catherine Besteman, Yarimar Bonilla, Kevin Carrico, C. Anne Claus, Sienna R. Craig, Zoë Crossland, Lara Deeb, K. Drybread, Jessica Marie Falcone, Kim Fortun, Kristen R. Ghodsee, Daniel M. Goldstein, Donna M. Goldstein, Sara L. Gonzalez, Ghassan Hage, Carla Jones, Ieva Jusionyte, Alan Kaiser, Barak Kalir, Michael Lambek, Carole McGranahan, Stuart McLean, Lisa Sang Mi Min, Mary Murrell, Kirin Narayan, Chelsi West Ohueri, Anand Pandian, Uzma Z. Rizvi, Noel B. Salazar, Bhargupati Singh, Matt Sponheimer, Kathleen Stewart, Ann Laura Stoler, Paul Stoller, Nomi Stone, Paul Tapsell, Katerina Teaiwa, Marnie Jane Thomson, Gina Athena Ulysse, Roxanne Varzi, Sita Venkateswar, Maria D. Vesperi, Sasha Su-Ling Welland, Bianca C. Williams, Jessica Winegar

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American Humor and an NAACP Image Award • Named one of the best books of the year by The New York Time, USA Today, San Francisco Chronicle, NPR, Esquire, Newsday, and Booklist Trevor Noah's unlikely path from apartheid South Africa to the desk of The Daily Show began with a criminal act: his birth. Trevor was born to a white Swiss father and a black Xhosa mother at a time when such a union was punishable by five years in prison. Living proof of his parents' indiscretion, Trevor was kept mostly indoors for the earliest years of his life, bound by the extreme and often absurd measures his mother took to hide him from a government that could, at any moment, steal him away. Finally liberated by the end of South Africa's tyrannical white rule, Trevor and his mother set forth on a grand adventure, living openly and freely and embracing the opportunities won by a centuries-long struggle. Born a Crime is the story of a mischievous young boy who grows into a restless young man as he struggles to find himself in a world where he was never supposed to exist. It is also the story of that young man's relationship with his fearless, rebellious, and fervently religious mother—his teammate, a woman determined to save her son from the cycle of poverty, violence, and abuse that would ultimately threaten her own life. The stories collected here are by turns hilarious, dramatic, and deeply affecting. Whether subsisting on caterpillars for dinner during hard times, being thrown from a moving car during an attempted kidnapping, or just trying to survive the life-and-death pitfalls of dating in high school, Trevor illuminates his curious world with an incisive wit and unflinching honesty. His stories weave together to form a moving and searingly funny portrait of a boy making his way through a damaged world in a dangerous time, armed only with a keen sense of humor and a mother's unconventional, unconditional love.

writing a literary analysis through the lens of a quotation: Citizen Claudia Rankine, 2014-10-07 * Finalist for the National Book Award in Poetry * * Winner of the National Book Critics Circle Award in Poetry * Finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award in Criticism * Winner of the NAACP Image Award * Winner of the L.A. Times Book Prize * Winner of the PEN Open Book Award * ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR: The New Yorker, Boston Globe, The Atlantic, BuzzFeed, NPR. Los Angeles Times, Publishers Weekly, Slate, Time Out New York, Vulture, Refinery 29, and many more . . . A provocative meditation on race, Claudia Rankine's long-awaited follow up to her groundbreaking book Don't Let Me Be Lonely: An American Lyric. Claudia Rankine's bold new book recounts mounting racial aggressions in ongoing encounters in twenty-first-century daily life and in the media. Some of these encounters are slights, seeming slips of the tongue, and some are intentional offensives in the classroom, at the supermarket, at home, on the tennis court with Serena Williams and the soccer field with Zinedine Zidane, online, on TV-everywhere, all the time. The accumulative stresses come to bear on a person's ability to speak, perform, and stay alive. Our addressability is tied to the state of our belonging, Rankine argues, as are our assumptions and expectations of citizenship. In essay, image, and poetry, Citizen is a powerful testament to the individual and collective effects of racism in our contemporary, often named post-race society.

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has provided a key to understanding the varying literacy cultures of regions, disciplines, professions, and educational settings. *GENRE IN A CHANGING WORLD* provides a wide-ranging sampler of the remarkable variety of current work. The twenty-four chapters in this volume, reflecting the work of scholars in Europe, Australasia, and North and South America, were selected from the over 400 presentations at SIGET IV (the Fourth International Symposium on Genre Studies) held on the campus of UNISUL in Tubarão, Santa Catarina, Brazil in August 2007—the largest gathering on genre to that date. The chapters also represent a wide variety of approaches, including rhetoric, Systemic Functional Linguistics, media and critical cultural studies, sociology, phenomenology, enunciation theory, the Geneva school of educational sequences, cognitive psychology, relevance theory, sociocultural psychology, activity theory, Gestalt psychology, and schema theory. Sections are devoted to theoretical issues, studies of genres in the professions, studies of genre and media, teaching and learning genre, and writing across the curriculum. The broad selection of material in this volume displays the full range of contemporary genre studies and sets the ground for a next generation of work.

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writing a literary analysis through the lens of a quotation: *In the Time of the Butterflies* Julia Alvarez, 2010-01-12 Celebrating its 30th anniversary in 2024, internationally bestselling author and literary icon Julia Alvarez's *In the Time of the Butterflies* is beautiful, heartbreaking and alive ... a lyrical work of historical fiction based on the story of the Mirabal sisters, revolutionary heroes who had opposed and fought against Trujillo. (Concepción de León, New York Times) Alvarez’s new novel, *The Cemetery of Untold Stories*, is coming April 2, 2024. Pre-order now! It is November 25, 1960, and three beautiful sisters have been found near their wrecked Jeep at the bottom of a 150-foot cliff on the north coast of the Dominican Republic. The official state newspaper reports their deaths as accidental. It does not mention that a fourth sister lives. Nor does it explain that the sisters were among the leading opponents of Gen. Rafael Leónidas Trujillo’s dictatorship. It doesn’t have to. Everybody knows of *Las Mariposas*—the Butterflies. In this extraordinary novel, the voices of all four sisters—Minerva, Patria, María Teresa, and the survivor, Dedé—speak across the decades to tell their own stories, from secret crushes to gunrunning, and to describe the everyday horrors of life under Trujillo’s rule. Through the art and magic of Julia Alvarez’s imagination, the martyred Butterflies live again in this novel of courage and love, and the human costs of political oppression. Alvarez helped blaze the trail for Latina authors to break into the literary mainstream, with novels like *In the Time of the Butterflies* and *How the García Girls Lost Their Accents* winning praise from critics and gracing best-seller lists across the Americas.—Francisco Cantú, *The New York Times* Book Review This Julia Alvarez classic is a must-read for anyone of Latinx descent. —Popsugar.com A gorgeous and sensitive novel . . . A compelling story of courage, patriotism and familial devotion. —People Shimmering . . . Valuable and necessary. —Los Angeles Times A magnificent treasure for all cultures and all time.” —St. Petersburg Times Alvarez does a remarkable job illustrating the ruinous effect the 30-year dictatorship had on the Dominican Republic and the very real human cost it entailed.—Cosmopolitan.com

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2016-05-03 The Breakfast Club meets We Need to Talk About Kevin A lockdown catches five grade 12 students by surprise and throws them together in the only unlocked room on that empty third floor wing: the boys' washroom. They sit in silence, judging each other by what they see, by the stories they've heard over the years. Stuck here with them--could anything be worse? There's Alice: an introverted writer, trapped in the role of big sister to her older autistic brother, Noah. Isabelle: the popular, high-achieving, student council president, whose greatest performance is her everyday life. Hogan: an ex-football player with a troubled past and a hopeless future. Xander: that socially awkward guy hiding behind the camera, whose candid pictures of school life, especially those of Isabelle, have brought him more trouble than answers. Told in five unique voices through prose, poetry, text messages, journals, and homework assignments, each student reveals pieces of their true story as they wait for the drill to end. But this modern-day Breakfast Club takes a twist when Isabelle gets a text that changes everything: NOT A DRILL!! Shooter in the school! Suddenly, the bathroom doesn't seem so safe anymore. Especially when they learn that one of them knows more about the shooter than they realized...

writing a literary analysis through the lens of a quotation: Golden Age, The Joan London, 2015 It is 1954 and thirteen-year-old Frank Gold, refugee from wartime Hungary, is learning to walk again after contracting polio in Australia. At the Golden Age Children's Polio Convalescent Home in Perth, he sees Elsa, a fellow patient, and they form a forbidden, passionate bond. The Golden Age becomes the little world that reflects the larger one, where everything occurs- love and desire, music, death, and poetry. It is a place where children must learn they're alone, even within their families. Subtle, moving and remarkably lovely, The Golden Age evokes a time past and a yearning for deep connection, from one of Australia's finest and most-loved novelists.

writing a literary analysis through the lens of a quotation: House of Leaves Mark Z. Danielewski, 2000-03-07 "A novelistic mosaic that simultaneously reads like a thriller and like a strange, dreamlike excursion into the subconscious." —The New York Times Years ago, when House of Leaves was first being passed around, it was nothing more than a badly bundled heap of paper, parts of which would occasionally surface on the Internet. No one could have anticipated the small but devoted following this terrifying story would soon command. Starting with an odd assortment of marginalized youth -- musicians, tattoo artists, programmers, strippers, environmentalists, and adrenaline junkies -- the book eventually made its way into the hands of older generations, who not only found themselves in those strangely arranged pages but also discovered a way back into the lives of their estranged children. Now this astonishing novel is made available in book form, complete with the original colored words, vertical footnotes, and second and third appendices. The story remains unchanged, focusing on a young family that moves into a small home on Ash Tree Lane where they discover something is terribly wrong: their house is bigger on the inside than it is on the outside. Of course, neither Pulitzer Prize-winning photojournalist Will Navidson nor his companion Karen Green was prepared to face the consequences of that impossibility, until the day their two little children wandered off and their voices eerily began to return another story -- of creature darkness, of an ever-growing abyss behind a closet door, and of that unholy growl which soon enough would tear through their walls and consume all their dreams.

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writing a literary analysis through the lens of a quotation: *My Emily Dickinson* Susan Howe, 2007-11-15 Starts off as a manifesto but becomes richer and more suggestive as it develops.—The New York Sun For Wallace Stevens, Poetry is the scholar's art. Susan Howe—taking the poet-scholar-critics Charles Olson, H.D., and William Carlos Williams (among others) as her guides—embodies that art in her 1985 *My Emily Dickinson* (winner of the Before Columbus Foundation Book Award). Howe shows ways in which earlier scholarship had shortened Dickinson's intellectual reach by ignoring the use to which she put her wide reading. Giving close attention to the well-known poem, *My Life had stood—a Loaded Gun*, Howe tracks Dickens, Browning, Emily

Brontë, Shakespeare, and Spenser, as well as local Connecticut River Valley histories, Puritan sermons, captivity narratives, and the popular culture of the day. Dickinson's life was language and a lexicon her landscape. Forcing, abbreviating, pushing, padding, subtracting, riddling, interrogating, re-writing, she pulled text from text....

writing a literary analysis through the lens of a quotation: Into the Wild Jon Krakauer, 2009-09-22 NATIONAL BESTSELLER • In April 1992 a young man from a well-to-do family hitchhiked to Alaska and walked alone into the wilderness north of Mt. McKinley. Four months later, his decomposed body was found by a moose hunter. This is the unforgettable story of how Christopher Johnson McCandless came to die. It may be nonfiction, but *Into the Wild* is a mystery of the highest order. —Entertainment Weekly McCandless had given \$25,000 in savings to charity, abandoned his car and most of his possessions, burned all the cash in his wallet, and invented a new life for himself. Not long after, he was dead. *Into the Wild* is the mesmerizing, heartbreaking tale of an enigmatic young man who goes missing in the wild and whose story captured the world's attention. Immediately after graduating from college in 1991, McCandless had roamed through the West and Southwest on a vision quest like those made by his heroes Jack London and John Muir. In the Mojave Desert he abandoned his car, stripped it of its license plates, and burned all of his cash. He would give himself a new name, Alexander Supertramp, and, unencumbered by money and belongings, he would be free to wallow in the raw, unfiltered experiences that nature presented. Craving a blank spot on the map, McCandless simply threw the maps away. Leaving behind his desperate parents and sister, he vanished into the wild. Jon Krakauer constructs a clarifying prism through which he reassembles the disquieting facts of McCandless's short life. Admitting an interest that borders on obsession, he searches for the clues to the drives and desires that propelled McCandless. When McCandless's innocent mistakes turn out to be irreversible and fatal, he becomes the stuff of tabloid headlines and is dismissed for his naiveté, pretensions, and hubris. He is said to have had a death wish but wanting to die is a very different thing from being compelled to look over the edge. Krakauer brings McCandless's uncompromising pilgrimage out of the shadows, and the peril, adversity, and renunciation sought by this enigmatic young man are illuminated with a rare understanding—and not an ounce of sentimentality. *Into the Wild* is a tour de force. The power and luminosity of Jon Krakauer's stoytelling blaze through every page.

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vignettes—sometimes heartbreaking, sometimes joyous—Cisneros's masterpiece is a classic story of childhood and self-discovery and one of the greatest neighborhood novels of all time. Like Sinclair Lewis's *Main Street* or Toni Morrison's *Sula*, it makes a world through people and their voices, and it does so in language that is poetic and direct. This gorgeous coming-of-age novel is a celebration of the power of telling one's story and of being proud of where you're from.

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fearless Igbo warrior of Umuofia in the late 1800s, *Things Fall Apart* explores one man's futile resistance to the devaluing of his Igbo traditions by British political and religious forces and his despair as his community capitulates to the powerful new order. With more than 20 million copies sold and translated into fifty-seven languages, *Things Fall Apart* provides one of the most illuminating and permanent monuments to African experience. Achebe does not only capture life in a pre-colonial African village, he conveys the tragedy of the loss of that world while broadening our understanding of our contemporary realities.

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