

Before the bell...

- Absolutely NO cell phones today! Please put them up.
- Grab a packet and a book
- Read the packet and listen to some theme related songs! We will start class in five minutes.



Important for BOTH Socratic &
Your Essay!

—

Connecting Device to Meaning to Theme!

AKA Explaining Yo'self
or How to Get an A

- When you write one of these essays, the objective is to explain HOW the author's literary techniques reveal the message of the work as a whole (theme).
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First, you have to talk about theme...

- Remember, thematic statements are universal messages (complete thoughts) about topics covered in a work.
- What are some thematic ideas we discussed last class? For our practices purposes right now, hint... one was related to this song!
- In your groups, come up with a thematic statement: “What does the author believe about...”
- When life presents a great struggle, a person’s will to **survive** and adapt is immeasurable and the human spirit irrepressible.



Second, you need a quote that supports your theme that is also a literary device...

But since we're pressed for time, I already found you one... (*This is now banned from your essay/Socratic*)

“We ran away from where we sat. The wave hit the shore so hard that it sent sand particles flying high up in the sky. When we went back to look, the waves had thrown out unwanted flotsam from the ocean, including some big crabs that I guess weren't strong enough to cling to the ocean floor, but they were still alive” (Beah 59).

Third, you have to explain
HOW your device proves
your theme

So, what does that look like?

The beach scene that Beah describes functions as a symbol of how his life has been impacted by the war. The power of the waves is similar to the constant overwhelming events that drive Beah to run for his life. The “unwanted flotsam” and “big crabs” represent Beah and his friends, who “weren’t strong enough” to completely withstand the effects of the war, but there is some hope because they are “still alive.” The mildly hopeful tone at the end of the scene communicates Beah’s idea that even in the face of impossible circumstances, the human spirit is capable of persisting.

Socratic Seminar Instructions

- **If you're a one** you will be in the "inner circle" for the first round.
- **If you're a two**, you will be in the outer circle and it's your job to evaluate your inner circle partner. Make sure you pay attention and take notes on the discussion. The evaluation sheet will be a classwork grade and it helps me determine the quiz grade for each student. Please be honest with your evaluation.
- We will have a **25 minute discussion session** and then we will switch roles.
- You must speak a minimum of two times to receive a passing score. Your overall grade will be a combination of your peer evaluation and my teacher notes.

Guidelines & Expectations

- Refer to the text when needed during the discussion. Your goal is to understand the ideas, issues, and values reflected in the text.
- Stick to the point currently under discussion; make notes about ideas you want to come back to.
- Don't raise hands; take turns speaking.
- Listen carefully.
- Speak up so that all can hear you.
- Talk to each other, not just to the teacher.
- You are responsible for the seminar; it will be as interesting or as dull as you make it. *(If there is silence, be aware that it will impact everyone's grades).*

A Few more expectations...

- *When I am evaluating your Socratic Seminar participation, I ask the following questions about participants. Did they...*
 - Speak loudly and clearly?
 - Cite reasons and evidence for their statements?
 - Use the text to find support?
 - Listen to others respectfully?
 - Stick with the subject?
 - Talk to each other, not to the leader?
 - Paraphrase accurately?
 - Ask for help to clear up confusion?
 - Support each other?
 - Avoid hostile exchanges?
 - Question others in a civil manner?
 - Seem prepared?

Grading for the Seminar

- Your grade will be a combination of the following:
 - Peer evaluation (your evaluation and that you completed one for your partner)
 - Your notes
 - Teacher evaluation - I will be looking for the things listed in the peer evaluation. To receive a passing score, you must talk at least twice and reference the text at least twice.

Exit Ticket: Now, let's practice connecting device to meaning to theme. Remember punk dialogue? Oh, you don't? Here are the rules again.

- Each answer must be in a complete sentence.
- Answers cannot repeat each other.
- *I don't know*, or *IDK* are not acceptable answers.

I need a volunteer! Pick any question you've prepared today... If there's time, I may choose multiple people...

- **Ms. Rolfe:** asks the question you chose
- **Student:** Answers the question
- **Ms Rolfe:** How you you know?
- **Student:** You say the quote from the book
- **Ms. Rolfe:** Huh? What does that mean?
- **Student:** You explain HOW your quote answers the questions. Also, if you want an A... connect devices to theme.