The “Chunk”

A “chunk” is the most basic component for all of your analytical essays whether they are literary or rhetorical in nature. You will need to master this formula in order to effectively write an in-depth analysis. We will expect you to follow this format as you craft all of your analytical essays from this point forward.

**The Format:**

1. Thesis 🡪 Craft this from the prompt. Explain the purpose of your essay. *What is the message the author is trying to evoke? Why is it important?* (This is all one sentence) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_What\_(concrete)\_ in order to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Why\_(abstract)\_\_\_\_\_.

(What the author actually did) (Message about humanity in relation to the theme)

Sentence Stem: In \_\_**Author**\_**’s** \_\_**Title**\_\_ \_**Tone Word**\_ \_**marker verb**\_ \_**the WHAT**\_ **in order to** \_**the WHY**\_.

**Body Paragraph:**

1. Topic Sentence/Assertion 🡪 Echo an idea (do not repeat!) from your thesis in this sentence. Narrow it down to a specific element or idea you wish to discuss. For example, if your thesis focuses upon man’s innate goodness, you will focus upon one overarching element of goodness the author includes in his piece. Perhaps your assertion is that according to your author, mankind takes care of those in need. You would then continue on to your quotation and provide an example of how the author accomplishes this.)
2. Quotation (embedded in a sentence) Choose a rich passage which includes at least one literary/rhetorical device. The text evidence should clearly match your assertion/thesis.
3. Commentary/Extension 🡪 You need a MINIMUM of 2-3 sentences of commentary between each and every quotation! Your goal is not to write the least amount possible. Instead, you are to extend your argument based upon your analysis of the specific text in front of you. **NO FLUFF**! We are looking for insight and depth, not a repetition of the same idea worded differently over and over again!!
   1. Level 1: Address the literary/rhetorical device and its purpose. Define and explain what its use means. For example, explain the simile or metaphor the author is using. *Basically, you are summarizing the device for plot/paraphrasing the author’s message or author’s purpose.*
   2. Level 2: Discuss how this device illustrates the author’s purpose. *Analyze why* *it was used. How does it better serve to convey the author’s message or purpose?*
   3. Level 3: Analyze why the author includes this quotation to underscore the theme (idea about humanity).

Then, you would immediately continue on with your next example in the same paragraph following the same format.