

Critical Concepts 8.2B Literary Writing Lesson Plans

Turning Graphic Organizers into Writing Responses

After students complete their organizers, model how to turn it into a summary paragraph.

Prompt:

Choose one of the texts (*The Necklace*, *The War of the Worlds*, *A Girl of the Limberlost*, *The Prince and the Pauper*). Write a multi-paragraph response in which you:

- **Determine the theme or central idea** of the text.
- **Analyze how the theme develops** through exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution.
- **Provide an objective summary** of the text that includes academic vocabulary from the word bank.
- **Claim/Thesis Statement**
- **Exposition Connection**
- **Rising Action Connection**
- **Climax Connection**
- **Falling Action Connection**
- **Resolution Connection**
- **Closing**

I DO – *The Necklace* by Guy de Maupassant

In Guy de Maupassant's short story *The Necklace*, the theme is that vanity and materialism can lead to unnecessary suffering and regret. At the beginning, Mathilde is introduced as a woman dissatisfied with her modest life in Paris. The exposition establishes the central conflict—her longing for wealth—and connects it directly to the theme by showing how her desire for status shapes her unhappiness. As the rising action unfolds, Mathilde borrows a necklace so she can appear wealthy at a ball. Each choice she makes is motivated by vanity, and these events reveal how the theme of materialism continues to grow throughout the story. The climax occurs when Mathilde loses the necklace. This turning point reveals the destructive consequences of her vanity, clearly linking the climax to the central idea. During the falling action, Mathilde and her husband labor for ten years to repay the necklace. This long period of suffering emphasizes the cost of materialism and how it consumes their lives. Finally, the resolution reveals that the necklace was worthless all along. This shocking twist reinforces the futility of her obsession and solidifies the theme: pursuing wealth and status can lead to misery and regret. Overall,

Maupassant uses the exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution to analyze the consequences of vanity. By connecting each stage of the plot to the theme, readers see how Mathilde's pursuit of materialism ultimately destroys her happiness.

WE DO –The War of the Worlds (Excerpt, Ch. 2: "The Fallen Star") by H. G. Wells

In H. G. Wells's *The War of the Worlds*, the theme is that human beings are vulnerable when confronted with the unknown. In the exposition, a strange cylinder falls from the sky, and the townspeople gather to observe it. Their curiosity and unease immediately hint at the theme of human vulnerability, because they are drawn to something they cannot understand. The rising action develops as more people come to investigate and scientists speculate about the object. Their curiosity blinds them to the potential danger, which emphasizes human weakness. The climax occurs when the cylinder begins to open, transforming curiosity into fear. This turning point shows the fragility of human confidence in the face of the unknown. In the falling action, fear spreads through the community, replacing their initial scientific curiosity with chaos. The resolution of this excerpt leaves the humans exposed and uncertain, unable to control the threat that looms before them. Altogether, Wells connects each stage of the story to the theme of human vulnerability, illustrating how quickly confidence collapses when people encounter forces beyond their understanding.

YOU DO WITH PARTNER – A Girl of the Limberlost by Jean Stratton Porter

Jean Stratton Porter's *A Girl of the Limberlost* develops the theme that perseverance and self-reliance allow individuals to rise above difficult circumstances. The exposition introduces Elnora, a girl living in poverty with a mother who treats her coldly. This difficult home life sets up the central conflict and connects to the theme, because it shows the challenges Elnora must overcome through perseverance. As the rising action unfolds, Elnora works to fund her own education by collecting and selling moths. These efforts connect to the theme by demonstrating her determination to succeed despite obstacles. The climax occurs when Elnora faces a major setback that threatens her progress, yet she refuses to quit. This moment reveals the strength of her perseverance and makes the theme most clear. In the falling action, Elnora continues her hard work and begins to achieve success both academically and personally. Her growth demonstrates how self-reliance pays off over time. By the resolution, she has gained recognition and independence, showing that her perseverance has carried her through her hardships. Overall, Porter ties every stage of the story back to the theme, proving that determination and independence can transform hardship into opportunity.

YOU DO INDEPENDENTLY – The Prince and the Pauper (Excerpt) by Mark Twain

In Mark Twain's *The Prince and the Pauper*, the theme is that inequality between social classes creates injustice, but empathy can bridge that divide. The exposition introduces Edward, a

prince, and Tom, a pauper. Their vastly different circumstances immediately highlight the theme of inequality and set up the conflict. In the rising action, the two boys switch places, forcing each to live in the other's world. Their struggles highlight how unfairly society treats people based on class. The climax occurs when Edward, disguised as a pauper, experiences harsh mistreatment. This injustice shows the cruelty of inequality and strengthens the theme. In the falling action, both boys reflect on what they have learned from each other's lives. Their perspectives shift as they gain empathy for the struggles of others. By the resolution, Edward returns to his rightful role as prince but with a new sense of compassion. His empathy leads him to rule more justly, which reinforces the theme. Twain uses each stage of the plot to reveal the theme, ultimately showing that while inequality is unjust, empathy allows people to understand each other and create fairness.