

Critical Concepts 8.4A Non Fiction 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 a word, phrase, or sentence from one of the excerpts (*The Captain's Tollgate*, *The Pit*, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*). In a paragraph, explain:

1. What the word/phrase is and its **figurative or connotative meaning**.
2. What **sound device** (if any) is used (alliteration, assonance, rhyme, repetition).
3. How the word choice and/or sound device **impact tone or meaning** in the passage.

Word/Phrase (what you notice in the text)

Figurative or Connotative Meaning (beyond literal)

Sound Device (repetition, alliteration, assonance, rhyme)

Analysis (how tone/meaning is shaped, why it matters)

Model (I Do) – Opening Pages of *Night*

In the opening pages of *Night*, Wiesel writes, **"Day after day, night after night, the same emptiness filled our streets."** This repetition of time emphasizes the monotony and hopelessness in Sighet. The words *day* and *night* carry connotative meaning beyond literal time—they suggest oppression, fear, and the slow, heavy passage of life under looming threats. The author repeats the phrase to mirror the unrelenting nature of fear and uncertainty. Together, repetition and connotation create a heavy, oppressive tone, helping the reader feel the weight of foreboding before the deportations begin.

Guided (We Do) – Moishe the Beadle's Return

When Wiesel describes Moishe returning from deportation, he writes, **"They did not listen. They refused to believe. They could not believe."** The repeated statements show layers of denial and refusal. Connotatively, the townspeople's disbelief conveys ignorance, willful avoidance, and vulnerability. Repetition of the verbs emphasizes the extent of their denial and creates a rhythm that mirrors frustration and disbelief. The tone is urgent and foreboding, alerting the reader that ignoring warnings has serious consequences.

Collaborative (You Do with Partner) – Description of Sighet Before Deportation

In describing Sighet's calm before tragedy, Wiesel writes, **"We continued to laugh, to play, to dream, unaware of what awaited us."** The word *dream* is figurative, suggesting not literal sleep but naive hope and denial. The parallel phrasing and repetition of the infinitive verbs to

laugh, to play, to dream create a musical rhythm that mirrors carefree life. The tone is innocent and nostalgic, which heightens the emotional contrast when the horrors of the Holocaust arrive.

Independent (You Do Alone) – Rereading Opening Pages

Later, Wiesel repeats the word “**night**” throughout the opening pages. Connotatively, “night” symbolizes fear, suffering, and the unknown horrors to come. Its repetition emphasizes the darkness and hopelessness surrounding the characters. This establishes a foreboding tone and connects the literal time of night to the metaphorical darkness of the Holocaust, preparing the reader emotionally for the memoir’s tragic events.