



Task Shell Example 5—Critique of Literary Texts: Character Study in a Self-Selected Text



Name _____

Date _____

Every story character, even animal characters, have personality traits that we learn about by what they say, think, want, and do, and by how other characters interact with them during the story. Authors use the characters and events in a story to develop themes and to teach lessons.

Select a text that you read earlier this year using a list provided by your teacher. Skim the story again and make some notes about the different characters in the story. Then select the character you think:

- (a) *learned* the most during the story OR
- (b) *taught* others an important lesson.

Write a response that states your opinion (a or b as your focus). Support your focus by analyzing and explaining how the character's traits, actions, and interactions with events and other characters during the story support your reasoning or opinion and focus.

You can use a graphic organizer to help you plan your response.

Be sure to

1. Have an introduction that sets the context. Include the title and author and a two- or three-sentence summary of the story (plot).
2. State a focus that includes your opinion about one of the characters (learning a lesson or teaching a lesson) and why you think this is so.
3. Have body paragraphs that have topic sentences and details from the text to support each reason that you identify.
4. Analyze your evidence from the text. Use descriptive words to elaborate on WHY your evidence supports your reasoning.
5. Use transitional words or phrases to connect your ideas.
6. Write a conclusion that connects to or summarizes your focus or opinion.
7. Use correct punctuation and spelling.

Source: Adapted from NYC Schools Performance Assessment Pilot—Grade 4 Opinion Writing (2010).



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My planning notes for _____

(text)

LIST KEY CHARACTERS IN THE STORY	DESCRIBE TRAITS, ACTIONS, MOTIVATION AT THE BEGINNING	DESCRIBE TRAITS, ACTIONS, MOTIVATION AT THE END	DID THIS CHARACTER <u>LEARN</u> OR <u>TEACH</u> A LESSON? LIST AND ANALYZE TEXT EVIDENCE.

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