

Examples of Realistic Fiction Book Club Annotations and Analysis

Use your annotations to extend your thoughts for discussion now, and so you'll have developed body paragraphs for your literary analysis paper later.

Remember, you want to analyze HOW the author uses that element of realistic fiction to create realistic writing and WHY that element/way it is written is effective in creating writing that seems real. This is NOT a summary, but an ANALYSIS.

HOW TO STRUCTURE YOUR EXTENDED THOUGHT PARAGRAPH

(Each body paragraph should include transition, example, and explanation.)

1. The author uses _____ in order to _____.
2. For example, _____.

(Provide specific examples of how the author makes the writing seem real WITH PAGE NUMBER.)

3. This makes the writing seem real because _____.
- or

This is effective because _____.

(Explain how the evidence you provide for the part you chose seems real.)

You want to make sure you explain **HOW the author uses** that specific element
and

WHY the way it is written is effective in making the writing seem real.

Effects of the structure (*How does the way the book is written create realistic characters, plot, setting, etc.?*)

Here is an example of what I'm looking for, using *Tears of a Tiger*:

p. 3, paragraphs 1–3 (*Tears of a Tiger*): Written like a conversation and not like normal dialogue—makes it seem like I'm overhearing a real conversation

One example of how the author uses realistic dialogue to make the plot seem real is how the author writes in “conversation.” Even though there is technically dialogue since two people are talking, the author creates a sense that there is a real conversation you are overhearing. She doesn't use traditional dialogue grammar, such as quotation marks or dialogue tags. For example, this is seen on page 3, when Rob is speaking with Andy. The book states,

- Hey, Rob! Live game, man . . .
- Yo, Andy, my main man! I see you . . .

As you can see, there are no quotation marks used, and there is no narrator who is stating, “He said . . . She said . . .” There is also no mention of who is speaking other than when the person uses names in speech (such as in the first quote the reader knows that someone is talking to Rob, and then we find out that Rob is talking to Andy, so the reader can now follow who is speaking from that point forward). This makes it seem more real because in life, there is no narrator, and if you overhear a conversation, you don't get background information regarding what is being said. You are put right into the moment with the characters and you have to follow the conversation to see who is speaking. By writing as if we are overhearing the conversation, it makes the plot and overall context of the book seem like real life.

- Hey, Rob! Live game, man. You be flyin' with the hoops, man! Swoosh! Ain't nobody better, 'cept maybe me.
- Yo, Andy, my main man! I see you been eatin' bull crap for dinner again! You only wish you was as good as me! I, Robert Orlando Washington, will be makin' *billions* of dollars playin' for the N.B.A.! Want me to save you a ticket to one of my games?

(Continued)

(Continued)

- Man, you be trippin'! You better be lookin' out for *me*—here's my card—Andy Jackson—superstar shooter and lover to the ladies—'cause I'm gonna be the high-point man on the opposin' team—the team that wipes the floor with you and your billion dollars!

Includes realistic language (How does the use of dialogue and dialect add to the realistic effect? How does the narration or way the characters speak create realistic effects?)

Again, here is an example of appropriate analysis with references to the text:

p. 3, paragraphs 1–3 (*Tears of a Tiger*): Informal speech/improper grammar—sounds like my friends and people I overhear talking

Another way that the author uses realistic dialogue to make the characters seem real is through the use of informal speech. The author uses a specific informal language that is not proper English. This is reminiscent of language I hear on a regular basis, which makes me relate more to the characters and makes them seem like real people. For example, on page 3, the author uses the words *ain't*, *'cept*, and *'cause* in the dialogue. The author also has the boys speak without the use of *g* when saying *-ing*. This makes it seem like the boys are comfortable with each other. Since they're ragging on each other but also not using proper English, it's clear they're probably close friends. This makes it seem real because there is a difference between how you talk with your friends and how you talk with a stranger, a teacher, or your parents. Since they are using words like *ain't* and *'cause* and not using *g* at the end of sentences, it seems very informal and casual. This is how friends in real life actually speak. In fact, this is how I speak with my friends. When reading the dialogue between characters, because of the use of language, I felt like I could be listening in on a conversation between my friends and me. This makes the characters seem more real.

