

## Literature Discussion Preparation Checklist

1. Type of literature & Specific Genre (some examples in parentheses)
  - narrative (novel, short story, epic, ballad, drama)
  - descriptive (article, advertisement)
  - lyric (sonnet, pastoral)
  - persuasive (speech, advertisement, petition)
  - expository (essay, article, resume)
2. Purpose(s) of literature - - keep in mind INTENDED AUDIENCE
  - to entertain
  - to complain, protest
  - to warn or advise
  - to instruct, educate
    - information
    - morality
    - religion
  - to advertise, promote, encourage
3. What is the literature about?
  - Subject matter
  - Plot
  - Social Commentary?
  - Theme(s) - - these are often *implied*, not directly stated
4. For narrative literature:
  - Characters
    - Motives
    - Backgrounds
    - Actions
    - Relationships
    - Appearance (not always important)
    - Qualities/Personalities
  - Characterization: how does the author reveal character?
    - Appearance
    - Behavior
    - What the character says about self
    - What other characters say about each other
  - Straightforward narration
  - Setting
    - Time
    - Place
    - General situation
5. Organization
  - of thoughts, ideas
  - of time (flashbacks, etc.)
  - of point of view (does it shift?)
  
  - how it reinforces the meaning
  - how it adds to mood, suspense, character development

6. Tone: author's/speaker's/main character's attitude (often connected to purpose)  
toward subject  
toward characters  
toward audience

reasons for attitude might include  
personal experience  
social commentary  
promotion of something

some examples of tone include  
satire  
didactic (instructing in a heavy-handed way)  
bitter  
optimistic  
excited, enthusiastic

7. Mood: overriding emotional quality - - NOT necessarily characters' emotions  
Diction  
Plot  
Speed of sentences, words, action

8. Style  
Diction (sound of word, rhythm, connotation, strength of word)  
Syntax (sentence structure, including word order)  
Imagery (description appealing to senses)  
Dialogue vs. narration  
Dialect  
Emphasis  
Voice - - active, passive, colorful  
Formality  
Clarity  
Parallelism  
Irony

9. Poetic Devices - - an incomplete list
- |                                             |                                                                                  |
|---------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Rhyme                                       | Metaphor                                                                         |
| Rhythm/Meter                                | Simile                                                                           |
| Personification                             | Onomatopoeia                                                                     |
| Alliteration                                | Organization of lines: quatrain, octet,<br>sestet, couplet, heroic couplet, etc. |
| Assonance                                   | Repetition                                                                       |
| Hyperbole                                   | Symbolism, motif (recurring symbol)                                              |
| Conceit (extended metaphor)                 |                                                                                  |
| Epic/Homeric, simile                        |                                                                                  |
| Allegory (symbolic level of interpretation) |                                                                                  |

10. Impact of Piece  
when first published - - historical context  
on you  
today  
based on previous nine categories