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Сумський державний педагогічний університет  
імені А. С. Макаренка

**Молгамова Л. О.**

**Analytical Reading in English**

*Навчально-методичне видання*

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М 75

*Друкується згідно з рішенням Вченої ради  
Сумського державного університету імені А.С.Макаренка  
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**Рецензенти:**

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**М 75**

**Молгамова Л. О. Analytical Reading in English (Аналітичне читання англійською мовою)** для студентів факультету іноземної та слов'янської філології: навчальне видання / Л. О. Молгамова. – Суми : ФОП Цьома С.П., 2023. – 32 с.

«Аналітичне читання англійською мовою» – це методичні рекомендації, розроблені для вдосконалення здатності студентів критично аналізувати художню літературу англійською мовою. Курс охоплює теми, такі як тема і тон художнього твору, елементи композиції сюжету, аналіз персонажів, наративність художнього твору, місце подій та образність художнього твору.

Мета методичних рекомендацій – допомогти студентам розвинути навички, необхідні для глибшого розуміння та інтерпретації художньої літератури. Студенти навчатися визначати та аналізувати різні елементи, що складають літературний твір, включаючи теми, тон, сюжет, персонажів, наративність, місце подій та образність. До кінця курсу студенти краще зрозуміють, як ці елементи працюють разом у літературному творі.

Для аудиторної та самостійної роботи студентів факультетів іноземних мов педагогічних інститутів та університетів.

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## **COURSE OVERVIEW**

“Analytical Reading in English” is a course designed to improve students' ability to critically analyze literature. The course covers a variety of topics including theme and tone, plot elements, character analysis, narrative point of view, setting, and imagery.

The goal of the course is to help students develop the skills necessary to understand and interpret literature on a deeper level. Students will learn how to identify and analyze the various elements that make up a literary work, including themes, tone, plot, characters, setting, and imagery. By the end of the course, students will have a better understanding of how these elements work together to create meaning in a literary work.

Throughout the course, students will complete a variety of tasks to help them develop their analytical skills. These tasks will include close readings of literary texts, group discussions, and written assignments such as literary analysis essays.

As a result of taking this course, students will be able to understand and identify the various elements of literature and how they work together to create meaning; analyze literature in a critical and thoughtful manner; communicate their analysis in writing and in group discussions; appreciate literature on a deeper level and have a greater understanding of the human experience through literature.

**TERM I**  
**TOPIC 1 “THEME AND TONE”**

The **theme** of a literary text refers to the central idea or message that the author is trying to convey through their work. It is the underlying subject matter or the main point that the story is trying to make. Themes can be universal, such as love, death, or identity, or they can be specific to the particular story or context. It is important to note that the theme is not always explicitly stated in the text, but it can be inferred through the actions, words, and thoughts of the characters.

The **tone** of a literary text refers to the author’s attitude towards the subject matter. It can be serious, humorous, ironic, or even satirical. The tone can change throughout the story, and it can also be conveyed through the use of literary devices such as imagery, symbolism, and diction.

One way *to analyze the theme and tone* of a literary text is to pay attention to the characters, their actions, and the events that take place in the story. Another way is to look at the language and imagery used by the author, as they can reveal the underlying emotions and attitudes towards the subject matter. It is also important to consider the historical and cultural context in which the text was written, as it can provide insight into the author's perspective and the societal issues they were addressing.

In conclusion, understanding the theme and tone of a literary text is crucial in order to fully appreciate and comprehend the author's message and the emotions they wish to convey.

**Task 1.**

**Study an example of literary text analysis on the topic under discussion.**

One of the brightest short stories examples is “The Lottery” by Shirley Jackson. The story is about a small village that holds a lottery each year, in which each household must participate. However, the lottery is not a typical lottery where one wins

a prize, but rather a lottery where one person is chosen to be stoned to death by the rest of the village.

The theme of the story is the dangers of blindly following tradition and the consequences of mob mentality. The villagers in the story are portrayed as mindless followers who participate in the lottery without question, despite the fact that it results in a death each year. The theme of tradition is reinforced by the story's setting, a small village where everything is done the same way every year, and nobody questions the tradition.

The tone of the story is ominous and disturbing. The story starts off with a seemingly normal and peaceful scene, but as the lottery progresses, the reader starts to feel a sense of unease. The ending of the story, where a person is chosen to be stoned to death, is particularly chilling and serves to drive home the story's message.

The story uses imagery and symbolism to reinforce the theme and the tone. For example, the black box that the villagers draw from, which is the symbol of the lottery, represents the dangerous tradition that the villagers blindly follow. Also, the stones that the villagers use to stone the person who is chosen represent the violence and brutality of the mob mentality.

In conclusion, "The Lottery" is a powerful and thought-provoking story that illustrates the dangers of blindly following tradition and the consequences of mob mentality. The story's theme and tone are reinforced by its setting, imagery, and symbolism, making it a classic and timeless piece of literature.

## **Task 2.**

- 1) Read the story "To Build a Fire" by Jack London.

### **Glossary:**

Hubris: excessive pride or self-confidence

Alaskan wilderness: an uninhabited region of Alaska

Frostbite: injury caused by freezing of the skin and underlying tissues

Permafrost: ground that remains frozen for two or more years

- 2) Discuss the dangers of hubris and underestimating nature.

- 3) Discuss the importance of humility and caution when dealing with natural environments.
- 4) Discuss the theme and tone of the story.
- 5) Identify the theme and tone of a given text in writing.
- 6) Explain the relationship between theme and tone in a text in writing.
- 7) Compare and contrast the theme and tone of the story as given in the example below.

*“To Build a Fire” by Jack London is a short story about a man who is traveling alone in the Alaskan wilderness during extremely cold weather. He is confident in his ability to survive the cold, but he makes a series of mistakes that ultimately lead to his death.*

*The theme of the story is the dangers of hubris and underestimating nature. The man in the story is portrayed as overly confident in his ability to survive in the wilderness, and he makes a series of mistakes because of this hubris. The story illustrates the consequences of underestimating nature and the importance of humility and caution when dealing with natural environments.*

*The tone of the story is somber and tragic. The story starts off with the man's confidence, but as the story progresses, the reader can feel the sense of unease and the impending doom. The ending of the story, where the man dies alone in the wilderness, is particularly chilling and serves to drive home the story's message.*

*The mood of the story is cold and harsh, the setting is the Alaskan wilderness, and the weather is extremely cold. The mood reflects the severity of the situation and the danger the main character is in.*

*In conclusion, “To Build a Fire” by Jack London is a powerful and thought-provoking story that illustrates the dangers of hubris and underestimating nature through the main character's mistakes. The story's theme and tone are reinforced by the setting, imagery, and symbolism, making it a classic and timeless piece of literature. The vocabulary, reading comprehension and discussion tasks, and the tasks to check understanding of theme and tone will help students to better understand the story and to relate it to real life situations.*

## **TOPIC 2 “PLOT ELEMENTS”**

The **plot** is the sequence of events that make up a story. It is the backbone of a literary text and it is what keeps the reader engaged and invested in the story. The plot can be divided into several elements, including the exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution.

The exposition is the beginning of the story, where the setting, characters, and background information are introduced. It is the foundation upon which the story is built.

The rising action is the part of the story where the conflict or problem is introduced, and the characters begin to take action to resolve it. This is where the story starts to build tension and the reader begins to become more invested in the outcome.

The climax is the turning point of the story, the moment where the conflict reaches its peak, and the most significant event in the story takes place. This is where the story takes an unexpected turn, and the outcome is uncertain.

The falling action is the aftermath of the climax. It is where the characters begin to deal with the consequences of the climax and the tension starts to decrease.

The resolution is the end of the story, where the conflict is resolved, and the story comes to a close.

It's important to note that not all stories have a clear-cut plot, some have a more complex or non-linear plot structure. Understanding the plot elements can help readers to understand the development and the resolution of the conflict in the story.

In conclusion, the plot elements are essential in understanding the structure and the progression of a story. As we continue this course, we will be analyzing various literary texts and examining their plot elements, to gain a deeper understanding of the story's meaning and purpose.

### **Task 1.**

**Study an example of literary text analysis on the topic under discussion.**

One of the brightest short stories is “The Tell-Tale Heart” by Edgar Allan Poe. The story is about a man who is driven to commit murder by his obsession with the eye of an old man who he is taking care of, and his subsequent descent into madness as he tries to cover up his crime.

The plot of the story can be divided into several elements:

**Exposition:** The story starts with the narrator, who is an unnamed man, describing his obsession with the old man's eye. He explains that although the old man is kind to him, he cannot stand the eye and decides to kill the old man to be rid of it.

**Rising Action:** The narrator waits for the perfect opportunity to kill the old man. He visits him every night for seven nights, but is unable to carry out the murder because the old man wakes up. On the eighth night, the narrator finally succeeds in killing the old man, but he is plagued with guilt and fear of being caught.

**Climax:** The narrator's guilt and fear cause him to hear a loud, pulsing noise that he believes is the heartbeat of the old man. The noise becomes louder and more intense, and the narrator becomes increasingly paranoid that the police will discover his crime.

**Falling Action:** The narrator is visited by the police, who have come to investigate the old man's disappearance. The narrator becomes increasingly agitated and paranoid as the police search the house, but he is unable to find the body.

**Resolution:** The narrator becomes overwhelmed by the guilt and the noise in his head, and he confesses to the crime, leading to his arrest.

The story is a classic example of the psychological thriller genre, it's a first-person narrative that provides a glimpse into the mind of a madman, with a plot that is driven by the narrator's obsession and descent into madness. The climax, where the narrator's guilt and fear cause him to hear a loud, pulsing noise that he believes is the heartbeat of the old man, is particularly suspenseful and effective in building tension.

In conclusion, "The Tell-Tale Heart" is a masterfully crafted short story that uses a tight plot and a unique narrative voice to keep the reader engaged and invested in the story. The plot is well-structured, with the elements of exposition, rising action, climax, falling action and resolution. The story's focus on the narrator's descent into madness,

is an exploration of the mind of a criminal, and an effective illustration of the psychological thriller genre.

## Task 2

1) Read the story “The Sniper” by Liam O'Flaherty.

### Glossary:

Civil war: a war between factions or regions of the same country

Marksman: a skilled shooter

Guerrilla: a member of a small independent group that fights against an invading force

Dublin: the capital and largest city of Ireland

- 2) Identify the moral ambiguities of war and violence in the story.
- 3) Discuss the dehumanizing effects of war.
- 4) Discuss the moral ambiguities of violence.
- 5) Discuss the theme and tone of the story.
- 6) Identify the plot elements of a given text in writing.
- 7) Explain the relationship between the plot elements in a text in writing.
- 8) Compare and contrast the plot elements as given in the example below.

*“The Sniper” by Liam O'Flaherty is a short story about a sniper during the civil war in Dublin, Ireland. The sniper is forced to confront the reality of war and the moral implications of his actions.*

*The theme of the story is the dehumanizing effects of war and the moral ambiguities of violence. The sniper is portrayed as a complex character who is forced to confront the reality of war and the moral implications of his actions. The story illustrates the dehumanizing effects of war and the moral ambiguities of violence.*

*The tone of the story is tense, and the mood is oppressive. The setting is the civil war in Dublin, and the atmosphere is filled with danger and uncertainty. The story's tone and mood reflect the severity of the situation and the danger the main character is in.*

*The plot of the story can be divided into several elements:*

*Exposition: The story starts with the sniper, who is an unnamed man, who takes position on a rooftop to shoot at the enemy soldiers. He is a skilled marksman and is confident in his abilities.*

*Rising Action: The sniper kills several enemy soldiers from his rooftop position, but he starts to question the morality of his actions when he realizes that one of his victims is his brother. He is plagued with guilt and fear of being discovered.*

*Climax: The sniper is discovered by the enemy and is forced to flee. He is chased through the city and is ultimately killed in a confrontation with an enemy soldier.*

*Falling Action: The sniper's body is found by his comrades, and they realize that he was killed by his own brother.*

*Resolution: The story ends with the sniper's comrades mourning his death and reflecting on the moral ambiguities of war and violence.*

### **TOPIC 3 “CHARACTER ANALYSIS”**

**Character analysis** is the process of examining the characters in a story in order to gain a deeper understanding of their motivations, actions, and role in the story.

Characters are the people or figures in a story, and they can be divided into two main categories: round and flat characters. Round characters are complex and multidimensional, they have multiple sides to them and change throughout the story, while flat characters are one-dimensional and remain the same throughout the story.

**To analyze a character**, one should consider their physical characteristics, their actions, their thoughts and feelings, and their relationships with other characters. The character's words and actions can reveal their personality and motivations, and their relationships with other characters can reveal how they are perceived by others and how they interact with the world.

It is also important to consider the historical and cultural context in which the text was written, as it can provide insight into the author's perspective and the societal issues they were addressing.

One way to analyze a character is to ask questions such as: What are the character's goals? What are their values? How do they change throughout the story? How do their actions and thoughts reveal their personality?

Another way is to use literary devices such as imagery, symbolism, and diction to gain insight into the character's inner thoughts and feelings.

In conclusion, analyzing characters is crucial in understanding the story's meaning and message. The characters are the ones who drive the story forward and understanding their motivations, actions, and relationships can help us to understand the story's themes and the author's message. As we continue this course, we will be analyzing various literary texts and examining their characters, to gain a deeper understanding of the story's meaning and purpose.

## **Task 1**

### **Study an example of literary text analysis on the topic under discussion.**

One of the brightest short stories is “The Yellow Wallpaper” by Charlotte Perkins Gilman. The story is about a woman, whose name is never mentioned, who is suffering from post-partum depression and is confined to a room in an old mansion by her husband, who is a physician. The woman becomes increasingly obsessed with the yellow wallpaper in the room and ultimately descends into madness.

The main character in the story is the unnamed narrator. She is a woman who is suffering from post-partum depression and is confined to a room by her husband. She is portrayed as a sensitive and intelligent woman who is trapped in a patriarchal society where her husband, who is a physician, doesn't take her condition seriously. Her feelings of isolation and confinement are reinforced by the yellow wallpaper in the room which she becomes increasingly obsessed with.

The other characters in the story are her husband, John and her sister-in-law, Jennie. John is portrayed as a well-meaning but insensitive man who is more interested in his work than his wife's well-being. He is dismissive of her feelings and doesn't take her condition seriously. Jennie is portrayed as a helpful but unsympathetic woman who is more interested in keeping the house in order than in her sister-in-law's well-being.

The characters in the story are used to illustrate the theme of the story, which is the oppression of women in a patriarchal society. The narrator's husband and sister-in-law are used to demonstrate the way in which women's voices and concerns are often ignored and dismissed in such a society. The story's focus on the narrator's descent into madness, is an exploration of the way in which this kind of oppression can lead to mental illness.

In conclusion, "The Yellow Wallpaper" is a powerful and thought-provoking story that illustrates the oppression of women in a patriarchal society through the characters of the narrator, her husband, and her sister-in-law. The characters in the story are well-developed, and their actions and interactions with each other effectively reinforce the story's themes and message. The story's focus on the narrator's descent into madness, is an exploration of the way in which this kind of oppression can lead to mental illness.

## **Task 2**

1) Read "Thank You, Ma'am" by Langston Hughes.

### **Glossary:**

Purse snatching: the act of stealing someone's purse

Compassion: the feeling of wanting to help someone who is suffering

Vulnerable: susceptible to physical or emotional harm

2) Identify the moral lesson learned by Roger.

3) Discuss the power of kindness and the ability of people to change for the better.

4) Discuss the role of compassion in the story.

5) Discuss the character development of Roger and Mrs. Jones.

6) Identify the main characters of a given text.

7) Describe the physical and personality traits of a character in writing.

8) Analyze the character's role in the story and their development throughout the story in writing.

9) Compare and contrast the characters analysis as given in the example below.

*“Thank You, Ma'am” by Langston Hughes is a short story about a young boy named Roger who attempts to steal the purse of an older woman named Mrs. Luella Bates Washington Jones. However, instead of turning him in to the police, Mrs. Jones takes Roger home and teaches him a valuable lesson about kindness and respect.*

*The theme of the story is the power of kindness and the ability of people to change for the better. The story illustrates how one act of kindness can change a person's life and how people have the ability to change for the better if given the opportunity.*

*The tone of the story is warm and compassionate. The mood is a mixture of nervousness and kindness, reflecting the actions of the characters. The setting is a city street, and the atmosphere is filled with danger and uncertainty.*

*The characters in the story are:*

*Roger: a young boy who is poor and lives on the streets. He attempts to steal Mrs. Jones' purse but is caught by her. He is portrayed as a vulnerable and misguided youth.*

*Mrs. Luella Bates Washington Jones: an older woman who is kind and compassionate. She is portrayed as a strong and caring woman who is able to see the good in people, despite their mistakes.*

*The characters in the story are well-developed and their actions and interactions with each other effectively reinforce the story's themes and message.*

*In conclusion, "Thank You, Ma'am" by Langston Hughes is a powerful and thought-provoking story that illustrates the power of kindness and the ability of people to change for the better through the characters of Roger and Mrs. Jones. The story's theme and tone are reinforced by the actions and interactions of the characters, making it a classic and timeless piece of literature. The vocabulary, reading comprehension and discussion tasks, and the tasks to check understanding of character analysis will help students to better understand the story and to relate it to real life situations.*

## TOPIC 4 “NARRATIVE POINT OF VIEW”

Narrative point of view is an important aspect of understanding and analyzing a literary text.

**Narrative point of view** refers to the perspective from which a story is told. In other words, it is the perspective from which the events of the story are seen and reported. There are several types of narrative point of view, each with its own unique characteristics.

The first type is the first-person point of view, in which the narrator is a character in the story and is telling the story from their own perspective. For example, “I walked down the street” is a sentence written in first-person point of view. One of the most common benefits of the first-person point of view is that it provides the reader with a very personal account of the story.

The second type is the second-person point of view, in which the narrator is addressing the reader directly and using the pronoun “you” to refer to the reader. This type of point of view is less common and is usually only used for specific effects, such as in interactive fiction or self-help books.

The third type is the third-person point of view, in which the narrator is not a character in the story and is not addressing the reader directly. Instead, the narrator is describing the actions and thoughts of the characters from an outside perspective. For example, “He walked down the street” is a sentence written in the third-person point of view. One of the most common benefits of the third-person point of view is that it provides the reader with a more objective account of the story.

The fourth type is the omniscient point of view, in which the narrator has access to the thoughts and feelings of all the characters in the story, and can move freely from one character's perspective to another. This point of view is typically used to provide a comprehensive understanding of the story and its characters.

Now, let's analyze a story that uses the first person point of view, “The Fall of the House of Usher” by Edgar Allan Poe. In this story, the narrator is a character in the story and is telling the story from their own perspective. This point of view allows the

reader to experience the story through the narrator's eyes, providing a more personal and intimate account of the story. The narrator's feelings and reactions to the events of the story are also revealed, which adds to the overall eerie and unsettling tone of the story.

In conclusion, understanding the narrative point of view is an essential part of analyzing a literary text. It helps us to understand how the story is being told and from whose perspective, and can also reveal the author's intended tone and themes. Remember, as you read and analyze literary texts in the future, to pay attention to the narrative point of view, and how it contributes to the overall meaning of the story.

## **TASK 1**

### **Study an example of literary text analysis on the topic under discussion.**

“The Yellow Wallpaper” is a short story written by Charlotte Perkins Gilman that explores the theme of gender roles and the oppression of women. The story is told from a first-person point of view, which allows the reader to understand the thoughts and feelings of the protagonist, a woman who is suffering from postpartum depression.

The narrative structure of the story is chronological, following the protagonist's descent into madness. The author also employs descriptive language and imagery to create a sense of entrapment and to convey the theme of the oppression of women. The use of symbolism also plays a role in the story, with the yellow wallpaper representing the protagonist's confinement and the patriarchal society that oppresses her.

The story's theme is the oppression of women, and the tone is melancholic and oppressive. The plot of the story centers around the protagonist's confinement in a room with yellow wallpaper, which she begins to fixate on and ultimately drives her to madness. The characters in the story include the protagonist, her husband, John, who is a physician, and her sister-in-law, Jennie, who help to care for her.

Overall, “The Yellow Wallpaper” by Charlotte Perkins Gilman is a powerful and thought-provoking short story that uses a first-person narrative point of view to convey its theme of the oppression of women. The story's use of descriptive language, imagery, symbolism and the use of characters, help to create a melancholic and oppressive

atmosphere that leaves a lasting impression on the reader. It's also a perfect example for students to learn about narrative point of view and how it can be used to convey the protagonist's feelings and experiences, as well as the theme of the story. The story's ending is also powerful and leaves the reader with a lot to ponder, and it also serves as a reminder of the dangers of societal expectations and gender roles that still exist today. This story is an excellent tool for students to analyze and understand how narrative point of view, symbolism and theme are interlinked, and how they can be used to create a powerful and lasting impact on the readers.

## Task 2

1). Read “The Tell-Tale Heart” by Edgar Allan Poe.

### **Glossary:**

Narrator - the person telling the story

Unreliable - not trustworthy

Murder - the act of killing someone illegally

Confession - the act of admitting one's wrongdoing

Insistence - the act of insisting or demanding firmly

Instability - the state of being unstable or not in control

2) Choose the correct word to complete the sentence: The narrator's constant ..... to the reader that he is not mad further emphasizes his instability.

3) Find words in the story that are synonyms of the word “obsession”.

4) Why is the narrator unreliable? What is the narrator's obsession?

5) How does the narrator feel about the old man's eye?

6) Do you think the narrator is truly mad? Why or why not?

7) How does the use of first-person point of view affect the story?

8) How does the setting contribute to the story's eerie tone?

9) Explain the difference between first-person and third-person point of view in writing.

10) Identify the point of view used in “The Tell-Tale Heart” and explain why it is effective in writing.

- 11) Discuss how the use of an unreliable narrator can affect the story.
- 12) Write a short story using second-person point of view and explain how it changes the reader's experience of the story.
- 13) Compare and contrast the narrative point of view as given in the example below.

*It is difficult to select just one short story as the “brightest” as it is a matter of personal preference. However, one short story that effectively illustrates the narrative point of view is “The Tell-Tale Heart” by Edgar Allan Poe.*

*Narrative elements: The story is told from the first-person point of view of the narrator, who is unreliable and untrustworthy. The story is set in a single location, an old man's house, and takes place over a period of several days. The story is written in past tense.*

*Structure: The story is divided into three parts: The narrator's introduction of himself, the murder of the old man, and the narrator's confession.*

*Techniques: Poe uses vivid imagery and descriptive language to create a sense of tension and unease throughout the story. He also uses repetition, such as the narrator's constant insistence that he is not mad, to further emphasize the narrator's instability.*

*Themes: The themes of the story include guilt, madness, and obsession.*

*Tone: The tone of the story is eerie, unsettling and disturbing.*

*Plot elements: The story starts with the narrator confessing the murder of an old man, and then goes on to describe how he committed the murder and how he was driven by his obsession with the old man's eye.*

*Types of characters: The story has only two characters, the narrator, who is the protagonist, and the old man, who is the antagonist.*

### **TASK 3**

- 1) Read “The Lottery” by Shirley Jackson.
- 2) What is the theme of the story?
- 3) What is the point of view of the story?
- 4) What is the tone of the story?

- 5) What is the plot of the story?
- 6) What type of characters are present in the story?
- 7) How does the use of foreshadowing and symbolism contribute to the atmosphere of the story?
- 8) How does the use of descriptive language and imagery create a sense of unease?
- 9) How does the narrative point of view help to convey the theme of the story?
- 10) How does the narrative point of view in "The Lottery" contribute to the reader's understanding of the characters and their actions?
- 11) How does the story's theme of blindly following tradition relate to contemporary society?
- 12) How does the story's ending leave the reader feeling and what is the purpose of this feeling?
- 13) Identify and analyze the use of foreshadowing and symbolism in the story and how they contribute to the atmosphere of the story.
- 14) Compare and contrast the narrative point of view in "The Lottery" to another story or novel that you have read.
- 15) Write an essay analyzing the use of descriptive language and imagery in the story and how it contributes to the theme and tone.
- 16) Create a visual representation of the narrative point of view in the story and how it contributes to the reader's understanding of the characters and their actions.
- 17) Choose a character from the story and rewrite a scene from the story from their perspective using first-person point of view.
- 18) Compare and contrast the narrative point of view as given in the example below.

*"The Lottery" is a short story written by Shirley Jackson that explores the theme of tradition and the dangers of blindly following it. The story is told from a third-person omniscient point of view, which allows the reader to understand the thoughts and feelings of multiple characters in the story.*

*The narrative structure of the story is linear, following the events of the lottery from the beginning to the end. The use of foreshadowing and symbolism adds to the tension and eerie atmosphere of the story. The author also employs descriptive*

*language and imagery to create a sense of unease and to convey the theme of the dangers of blindly following tradition.*

*The story's theme is the dangers of blindly following tradition, and the tone is dark and unsettling. The plot of the story centers around the annual lottery drawing in a small village, where the winner is stoned to death. The characters in the story are typical of small town dwellers, with the protagonist Tessie Hutchinson, who is a typical housewife who is drawn as the winner of the lottery and is stoned to death by her fellow villagers.*

*Overall, "The Lottery" by Shirley Jackson is a masterful short story that uses a third-person omniscient narrative point of view to convey its theme of the dangers of blindly following tradition. The story's use of foreshadowing, symbolism, descriptive language, imagery and the use of characters, help to create an eerie and unsettling atmosphere that leaves a lasting impression on the reader, and it's a perfect example for students to learn about narrative point of view.*

## **TOPIC 5 "SETTING OF A LITERARY TEXT"**

**Setting** refers to the time and place in which a story takes place. It can include physical details such as the location, weather, and architecture, as well as historical and cultural context. The setting can also include the mood or atmosphere of the story.

Setting can have a significant impact on the characters, plot, and themes of a story. It can be used to create a sense of realism, or to create a specific mood or atmosphere. It can also serve as a symbol or metaphor for the events and themes of the story.

For example, in "The Fall of the House of Usher" by Edgar Allan Poe, the setting is an old, gloomy mansion called the House of Usher. The house is described as being in a state of decay and neglect, with a "bleak and dark" atmosphere that reflects the mental state of the main character, Roderick Usher. The setting is an important aspect of the story, as it contributes to the overall eerie and unsettling tone.

In “The Secret Life of Walter Mitty” by James Thurber, the setting is a small American town, with the majority of the story set in the present time, but with daydreams that take place in different time and places. The contrast between the mundane and uneventful reality of Walter Mitty's life and the vivid and exciting daydreams he has serves as a symbol for escapism and the longing for adventure.

As you can see, the setting is not just a backdrop for the story but an active participant in shaping the characters and the plot, and can also enhance the atmosphere and the themes. As you read and analyze literary texts in the future, pay attention to the setting and how it contributes to the overall meaning of the story.

### **Task 1.**

#### **Study an example of literary text analysis on the topic under discussion.**

“The Fall of the House of Usher” is a short story by Edgar Allan Poe, first published in 1839. The story is set in a gloomy and decrepit mansion, known as the House of Usher, and follows the narrator as he visits his childhood friend, Roderick Usher, who is suffering from a mysterious illness. The story is known for its use of setting to create a feeling of unease and foreboding.

The narrative structure of the story is linear, as it tells the story of the narrator's visit to the House of Usher in chronological order. The story also uses a first-person point of view, with the narrator being the main character.

The theme of the story is the decay and downfall of the House of Usher, both physically and metaphorically. The tone is eerie and unsettling.

The plot of the story is centered around the narrator's visit to the House of Usher and the mysterious illness of Roderick Usher. The main character, the narrator, is a dynamic character who changes throughout the story as he becomes increasingly uneasy with the events that transpire.

The setting of the story is the House of Usher, a gloomy and decrepit mansion located in a remote and isolated area. The story takes place over the course of a few days.

## Task 2

1) Read “The Signalman” by Charles Dickens.

### Glossary:

Encounter - a meeting or confrontation

Isolated - cut off from others

Suspense - a feeling of uncertainty or apprehension

Symbolism - the use of symbols to represent ideas or qualities

Ghostly - resembling or suggesting a ghost

- 2) Choose the correct word to complete the sentence: The traveler felt a sense of ..... as he walked through the remote railway cutting.
- 3) Find words in the story that are synonyms of the word “remote”.
- 4) What is the setting of the story?
- 5) What is the signalman's vision of the ghostly figure?
- 6) What are the themes of the story?
- 7) How does the setting contribute to the eerie atmosphere of the story?
- 8) What is the significance of the ghostly figure in the story?
- 9) How does the use of symbolism in the story affect the reader's experience?
- 10) Explain the importance of setting in a story and how it can affect the reader's experience.
- 11) Analyze the setting of “The Signalman” and how it contributes to the story's themes and atmosphere.
- 12) Compare and contrast the setting of “The Signalman” with the setting of another story you have read.
- 13) Write a short story set in a city and discuss how the setting contributes to the story's themes and atmosphere.
- 14) Compare and contrast the setting as given in the example below.

*One short story that effectively illustrates the setting of the story is “The Signalman” by Charles Dickens.*

*Narrative elements: The story is told from the first-person point of view and describes the encounter between a signalman and a traveler who stops to speak to him. The story takes place in a remote, isolated railway cutting.*

*Structure: The story is divided into three parts: the traveler's arrival, the signalman's account of his experiences, and the traveler's departure.*

*Techniques: Dickens uses descriptive language to create a sense of isolation and eerie atmosphere. He also uses symbolism such as the signalman's vision of the ghostly figure, to build a sense of suspense.*

*Themes: The themes of the story include isolation, death, and the supernatural*

*Tone: The tone of the story is eerie, unsettling and ominous.*

*Plot elements: The story starts with a traveler meeting a signalman in a remote railway cutting. The signalman tells him about the strange occurrences and visions he has been having, involving a ghostly figure.*

*Types of characters: The story has two main characters, the signalman and the traveler.*

*Setting: The story takes place in a remote, isolated railway cutting. It is described as a lonely and eerie place, with the signalman's signal box being the only human-made structure in the area.*

### **Task 3**

- 1) Read "Everyday Use" by Alice Walker.
- 2) What is the theme of the story?
- 3) Describe the setting of the story
- 4) What is the tone of the story?
- 5) What is the plot of the story?
- 6) What type of characters are present in the story?
- 7) How does the setting of the story contribute to the theme of heritage and cultural identity?
- 8) How does the author use imagery and descriptive language to create a sense of place in the story?

- 9) How does the setting serve to highlight the differences between the characters and their perspectives on their heritage?
- 10) How does the theme of heritage and cultural identity relate to contemporary society?
- 11) How does the story's ending leave the reader feeling and what is the purpose of this feeling?
- 12) Research and present on the cultural and historical context of the rural South in the United States during the time period in which the story is set.
- 13) Compare and contrast the setting of "Everyday Use" to another story or novel that you have read.
- 14) Write an essay analyzing the use of imagery and descriptive language in the story and how it contributes to the theme and tone.
- 15) Create a visual representation of the setting of the story and how it contributes to the reader's understanding of the characters and their actions.
- 16) Choose a scene from the story and rewrite it, changing the setting and analyze how the change in setting affects the story.
- 17) Compare and contrast the setting as given in the example below.

*"Everyday Use" is a short story written by Alice Walker that explores the theme of heritage and cultural identity. The setting of the story is in the rural South in the United States, in the late 1960s or early 1970s. The story takes place in the home of the protagonist, Mama, and her two daughters, Maggie and Dee.*

*The narrative structure of the story is linear, following the events of a visit by Dee, who has changed her name to Wangero, to her mother's home. The author uses imagery and descriptive language to create a sense of place and to convey the theme of heritage and cultural identity. The setting also plays a role in the story, as it serves to highlight the differences between the characters and their perspectives on their heritage.*

*The story's theme is heritage and cultural identity, and the tone is nostalgic and bittersweet. The plot of the story centers around the visit of Dee, who has changed her name and her perspective on her heritage, to her mother's home. The characters in the*

story include Mama, the protagonist, her two daughters, Dee and Maggie, and Dee's companion, Hakim-a-barber.

Overall, “Everyday Use” by Alice Walker is a powerful and thought-provoking short story that uses the setting of the rural South in the United States to convey its theme of heritage and cultural identity. The story's use of imagery, descriptive language, and the use of characters, help to create a nostalgic and bittersweet atmosphere that leaves a lasting impression on the reader. The setting also plays a crucial role in the story, as it serves to highlight the differences between the characters and their perspectives on their heritage. This story is an excellent tool for students to analyze and understand how setting, imagery and theme are interlinked, and how they can be used to create a powerful and lasting impact on the readers.

## **TOPIC 6 “THE USE OF IMAGERY IN THE LITERARY TEXT”**

**Imagery** refers to the descriptive language used in literature to create sensory details and to evoke emotions and mental images in the reader's mind. Imagery can include descriptive words, phrases, and figures of speech that relate to the five senses, such as sight, sound, taste, smell, and touch.

Imagery is a powerful tool for authors to create vivid and detailed descriptions of characters, settings, and events in a story. It also helps to convey the tone, mood and themes of the story.

For example, in “The Fall of the House of Usher” by Edgar Allan Poe, the imagery used to describe the gloomy, decrepit mansion creates an eerie and unsettling atmosphere that reflects the mental state of the main character, Roderick Usher. The imagery also serves to enhance the theme of decay and madness.

In “The Secret Life of Walter Mitty” by James Thurber, the imagery used to describe the daydreams serves as a contrast to the mundane and uneventful reality of Walter Mitty's life and also to convey the theme of escapism and the longing for adventure.

As you can see, imagery plays an important role in creating a sense of realism, atmosphere and in conveying the themes in a story. As you read and analyze literary texts in the future, pay attention to the imagery and how it contributes to the overall meaning of the story.

## **Task 1**

### **Study an example of literary text analysis on the topic under discussion.**

“The Scarlet Ibis” is a short story by James Hurst, first published in 1960. The story is set in a small town in the southern United States and follows the relationship between two brothers, Doodle and the narrator. Doodle, who was born with a physical disability, is the focus of the story as the narrator tries to teach him how to walk and eventually dies because of it. The story is known for its use of imagery to convey the themes of love, guilt, and death.

The narrative structure of the story is chronological, as it tells the story of Doodle's life from his birth to his death. The story also uses a first-person point of view, with the narrator being the main character.

The theme of the story is the relationship between the two brothers and the guilt the narrator feels for causing Doodle's death. The tone is melancholic and nostalgic.

The plot of the story is centered around the narrator's attempts to teach Doodle how to walk, and ultimately, Doodle's death. The main character, the narrator, is a dynamic character who changes throughout the story as he comes to terms with his guilt.

The setting of the story is a small town in the southern United States, with no specific location specified. The story takes place over the course of several years.

Imagery is used throughout the story to convey the themes of love, guilt, and death. For example, the image of the scarlet ibis, a rare and beautiful bird that Doodle's death is compared to, is used to symbolize Doodle's fragility and the narrator's guilt.

## **Task 2**

1) Read “The Red Room” by H.G. Wells.

**Glossary:**

Foreboding - a feeling of impending doom

Suspense - a feeling of uncertainty or apprehension

Vivid - striking and intense in impact

Descriptive - providing detailed information about the subject

Haunted - believed to be inhabited by ghosts or spirits

Supernatural - beyond the natural world

- 2) Choose the correct word to complete the sentence: The young man felt a sense of ..... as he entered the haunted red room.
- 3) Find words in the story that are synonyms of the word “eerie”.
- 4) What is the protagonist's goal in the story?
- 5) What happens to the protagonist in the red room?
- 6) What is the theme of the story?
- 7) How does the use of imagery in the story affect the reader's experience?
- 8) What is the significance of the red room in the story?
- 9) How does the setting contribute to the eerie atmosphere of the story?
- 10) Define imagery and explain its importance in literature in writing.
- 11) Analyze the use of imagery in “The Red Room” and discuss how it contributes to the story's themes and atmosphere in writing.
- 12) Compare and contrast the use of imagery in “The Red Room” with the use of imagery in another story you have read in writing.
- 13) Compare and contrast the use of imagery as given in the example below.

*One short story that effectively illustrates the use of imagery is “The Red Room” by H.G. Wells.*

*Narrative elements: The story is told from the first-person point of view of the protagonist, who is determined to spend a night in a haunted room. The story takes place in an old castle.*

*Structure: The story is divided into three parts: the protagonist's arrival at the castle, his experience in the red room, and his departure.*

*Techniques: Wells uses vivid and descriptive imagery to create a sense of eerie atmosphere, and to depict the supernatural elements of the story. He also uses imagery to create a sense of foreboding and to build suspense.*

*Themes: The themes of the story include fear, the supernatural, and the power of the imagination.*

*Tone: The tone of the story is eerie, unsettling, and ominous.*

*Plot elements: The story starts with the protagonist, a young man, who is determined to spend a night in a haunted room known as "The Red Room". He soon regrets his decision as he is confronted with strange and terrifying events.*

*Types of characters: The story has one main character, the protagonist, and several minor characters such as the old people who live in the castle.*

*Setting: The story takes place in an old castle, specifically in a room known as "The Red Room". The castle is described as dark, gloomy, and haunted.*

*Use of imagery: Wells uses vivid and descriptive imagery to create a sense of eerie atmosphere and to depict the supernatural elements of the story. For example, he describes the red room as "a room hung with red damask, lighted by a shaded lamp, and furnished with heavy old-fashioned furniture" to create a sense of unease and foreboding. He also uses imagery to create a sense of fear, such as describing the shadows in the room as "black, inky shadows" and the silence as "a silence like death".*

*This story illustrates the power of imagery in evoking emotions and creating atmosphere. The use of descriptive language and vivid imagery throughout the story effectively conveys the eerie, unsettling atmosphere of the haunted room, and the protagonist's growing sense of fear and unease.*

### **Task 3**

- 1) Read "The Secret Life of Walter Mitty" by James Thurber.
- 2) Explain the theme of the story.
- 3) What is the tone of the story?
- 4) What is the setting of the story?
- 5) What is the protagonist's name and what is his main characteristic?

- 6) What do you think is the main message of the story?
- 7) What do you think is the purpose of the daydreams in the story?
- 8) Do you think Mitty's daydreams were a good way for him to cope with reality?
- 9) Identify one example of imagery in the story and explain how it contributes to the overall narrative.
- 10) What are some other examples of imagery in the story?
- 11) How does the imagery in the story convey the contrast between Mitty's reality and his daydreams?
- 12) Compare and contrast the use of imagery as given in the example below.

*“The Secret Life of Walter Mitty” is a short story by James Thurber, first published in The New Yorker in 1939. The story follows the titular character, Walter Mitty, as he daydreams about exciting and heroic adventures while running errands for his wife. The story is known for its use of imagery to convey the contrast between Mitty's dull reality and his vivid daydreams.*

*The narrative structure of the story is episodic, as it is composed of several vignettes that depict Mitty's daydreams. The story also uses a third-person limited point of view, with the narrator only privy to Mitty's thoughts and actions.*

*The theme of the story is the escape from reality, and the contrast between the monotony of everyday life and the excitement of daydreams. The tone is comedic, with Mitty's daydreams often being comically grandiose and far-fetched.*

*The plot of the story is relatively simple, with Mitty running errands for his wife and getting lost in daydreams. The main character, Walter Mitty, is a static character who remains unchanged throughout the story.*

*The setting of the story is a small town in the United States, with no specific location specified. The story takes place over the course of a single day.*

*Imagery is used throughout the story to convey the contrast between Mitty's dull reality and his vivid daydreams. For example, the description of Mitty's car as "an old, battered hatchback" contrasts with his daydream of driving a powerful, shiny car.*

## CHECK YOURSELF SECTION

1. Match the following themes with the correct literary work:

- A. The corrupting nature of power
- B. The search for identity
- C. The destructive nature of revenge
- D. The cruelty of fate

- 1. “Macbeth”
- 2. “The Great Gatsby”
- 3. . “The Catcher in the Rye”
- 4. “Hamlet”

2. Identify the tone of the following passage: *“The sky was dark and ominous, with lightning illuminating the clouds in a terrifying display. The wind howled through the trees, shaking them violently and sending leaves flying in every direction. It was clear that a storm was coming, and it would be a fierce one.”*

- a. Calm
- b. Light-hearted
- c. Foreboding
- d. Sarcastic

3. Analyze the character of Holden Caulfield in “The Catcher in the Rye.” What are his motivations and how does he change throughout the novel? Compare and contrast the characters of Gatsby and Tom Buchanan in “The Great Gatsby.” How do their actions and personalities contribute to the theme of the novel?

4. Identify the inciting incident, rising action, climax, and resolution in the plot of “To Kill a Mockingbird.” Explain how symbolism is used to enhance the plot in “The Lord of the Flies.”

5. Define the following narrative point of view: first-person point of view, second-person point of view, third-person point of view. Explain the effect of a first-person point of view on the reader's understanding of the story. Compare and contrast the use of first-person and third-person point of view in a story.

6. Identify the setting of a story and explain its significance to the plot and characters. Compare and contrast the use of setting in two different stories. Analyze how the setting affects the tone and atmosphere of a given story. Explain how the setting helps to create a sense of time and place in a story.

7. Identify examples of imagery in a story and explain their significance. Analyze how the use of imagery helps to create a sense of atmosphere and mood in a story. Compare and contrast the use of imagery in two different stories. Explain how the imagery helps to convey the themes and emotions in a story. Create a visual representation of an example of imagery from a story.

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**Молгамова Лілія Олексіївна**

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