**Directions:** *Read through the mentor text and highlight important ideas as well as annotate…*

* **Introduction**

**Analyzing literature**. Kind of scary, right? It doesn't have to be. In fact, you're probably a pro at analysis already - you're analyzing text all of the time: when you read a newspaper article, dissect a cooking recipe, and even when you follow driving directions.

In order to get from point A to point B in your car, for example, you need to understand the map, the written directions as a whole, as well as all of the individual parts or turns. It often helps you to figure out which areas might trip you up and from what direction of town you should approach your destination. That's all analysis is.

**\*\*\*\*Analyzing literature is much like reading directions. First, you tackle literature by reading it once for comprehension and then moving onto a deeper reading for analysis.**

Once you are steady on your feet with comprehension, you move on to **interpretation**, which really means filling in the pieces of the puzzle that are not explicitly stated. Look more closely at the details that fit the literary work together. Examine things like mood and tone of a scene or character motivation in a specific moment.

Finally, once you feel like you've painted a clear portrait in your head through story comprehension and personal interpretation, you pull all of this information together to create an **analytical statement about the piece as a whole**. This can include things like theme, author commentary or choices, overall character analysis, how literature reflects a time period, etc. - really, the list of possible topics for overall analysis is endless, and not everyone will interpret the same work in the same way. It is drawing conclusions about a work based upon the story's elements.

* **Comprehension**

You know what comprehension means. You read a literary work once to figure out how all of the basic parts fit together as a story. Essentially, it's the basic understanding of:

* Setting
* Characters
* Plot (to the extent that they are revealed)

Once you have mastered this basic understanding, then you need to be pushing more of the “WHY;” “WHY” the author picked the setting, characters, and plot points that they did.

* **Close Reading and Interpretation**

Interpreting and analyzing a literary work is the point at which you begin to fill in the pieces of the story a bit more. You explore setting, characters, and plot more deeply while giving consideration to author's style and language.

Not only does analysis include setting, characters, and plot, it will also include looking closer at other parts of writing including;

**Author Style and Language Analysis**

It's an examination of point-of-view, imagery, symbolism, other [**literary devices**](http://education-portal.com/academy/lesson/literary-devices-definition-examples-quiz.html), the use of repetition, and any other choices the author makes that create a unique piece. This particular step in the process can be one that takes quite a while. Not only are you examining the presence of these aspects of the writing, but you will also have to consider why they are there at all and what purpose might they serve. Examine the work under the assumption that the authors make deliberate choices, and their choices support the overall goal of delivering a specific message.

***My reactions to the text are…***