

Literary Essay Outline Sample

Essay Question:

Choose one of the short stories we read in class.

How does the author use specific short story elements (literary devices) to build the theme?

Thesis Statement:

The short story **“Evil Robot Monkey”** by **Mary Robinette Kowal** uses **setting, personification and symbolism** to show that **humans consider themselves superior to all else, and disregard the damaging impact their actions have on nature.**

Setting

Personification

Symbolism

Body Paragraph #1	Body Paragraph #2	Body Paragraph #3
<p>Topic Sentence (Statement):</p> <p>“Evil Robot Monkey” uses the setting of Sly’s cage to represent how the humans wish to dominate nature and keep it confined, regardless of the destructive and damaging emotional impact it has on nature.</p>	<p>Topic Sentence (Statement):</p> <p>Your Topic Sentence Should include the following:</p> <p>Literary Device + How it appears in the story + How it connects back to the theme stated in your thesis statement</p>	<p>Topic Sentence (Statement):</p>
<p>Evidence/Quote #1:</p> <p>At the beginning of the story, the author gives the reader a glimpse into Sly’s life in his cage: “Someone banged on the window of his pen... He spun and hurled [the clay] at the picture window like feces. The clay splattered against the Plexiglas, sliding down the window” (1).</p> <p>Evidence/Quote #2:</p> <p>To further illustrate the state of Sly’s pen, the author then writes, “Swinging down from his stool, he crossed his room in three long strides and pressed his dirty hand against the window” (1).</p>	<p>Evidence/Quote #1:</p> <p>Your evidence should include:</p> <p>Context</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - introduce the quote to your reader using language that smoothly integrates your quote into the rest of your paragraph. - inform the reader on who said/wrote the quote, and what part of the story it is from. <p>“Quote” + Citation (page number).</p> <p>Evidence/Quote #2:</p>	<p>Evidence/Quote #1:</p> <p>Evidence/Quote #2:</p>

<p>Explanation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sly is put on display within his pen, and is made available for all visitors of the zoo to interact with him at any time. - The constant invasion of privacy causes Sly obvious unhappiness, as he reacts by throwing his clay vase at the window in rage. - In addition, the fact that Sly can cross the room in three strides, indicates it is very tiny, giving him very little room to roam freely. - He is clearly confined to a space smaller than a wild animal deserves. The humans in the zoo have exploited Sly as a means to showcase their scientific breakthrough, as well as to make money by allowing visitors to view him in his pen like a circus animal. - Regardless of Sly's obvious rage and displeasure towards his environment and the lack of respect shown to him, the humans disregard Sly's unhappiness and keep him confined in a pen. Instead the humans value only their needs above that of the nature in their care. 	<p>Explanation:</p> <p>Your explanation should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An explanation of the quote's meaning, according to your inference or interpretation. - An explanation of how your interpretation of the quote supports/connects to the story's theme, as presented in your thesis statement. 	<p>Explanation:</p> <p>(Simplified Point Form Version)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sly on display, no privacy. - No privacy = frustration. Sly becomes angry at those who mock him through the window. - Three strides = small space, no room to move. - Sly in cage smaller than a wild animal deserves/needs. Humans are controlling/exploiting him to make money. - Delilah ignores Sly's outbursts of rage, and keeps him in the cage, no matter how angry he gets. - Therefore, proving humans do not value Sly (nor nature), and only act in benefit of themselves.
<p>Concluding Sentence:</p> <p>Overall, the use of Sly's cage as the setting in the short story highlights how little humans care for nature, preferring dominance and confinement instead of recognizing nature's needs and emotions.</p>	<p>Concluding Sentence:</p> <p>Your Concluding Sentence should:</p> <p>Restate the Literary Device + Restate How it appears in the story + Sum up how it connects back to the theme stated in your thesis statement.</p>	<p>Concluding Sentence:</p>