

Context – Text Evidence (TE) – **Reasoning** Practice

“Slim looked approvingly at George for having given the compliment” (34).

““No. I’ll come do it myself” [and] ... stood up” (50).

Before writing the response, pause and think about:

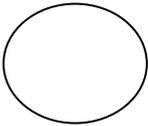
What does the Text Evidence (literally) say?

What can you infer from the Text Evidence?

What do you think this Text Evidence shows about the bigger story, or life?

Then ponder these questions, taking notes in the margins of your packet:

**What** does your TE mean?



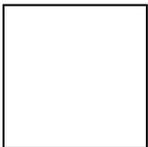
- What does the TE show about the character?
- What does the TE show about the character’s actions?
- What does the TE show about the character’s statements/thinking?
- In what way does the other character(s) react?
- What is taking place in the passage that the reader may not catch?

**Why** is your TE significant (why should the reader care)?



- Why can you use your TE to infer significance about the character?
- Why can you use your TE to show the significance of other characters, given the thoughts, actions, or statements of the character in the TE?
- Why does the character’s actions/statements/thoughts grab you?
- Why does your TE connect to your Claim?

**How** does your TE prove your TS or thesis?



- How does a section or word from your passage support your Claim?
- How do you know this TE for your Claim?
- How do you argue your point of view rather than that of the other POV?
- How does your TE go beyond the novel?
- How does your TE make a comment on society or humanity or....?

It is important to make your commentary (analysis) thoughtful and full because it is where you share your thoughts. You may understand a section of a novel, but if you cannot write down how you understand that section, I will not know you understand.

*Still having trouble?* Pretend you and I are talking. You are sharing your passage and why you chose it. Write down our conversation. Now you have the What, Why, and How to put into your commentary. Don’t want to write it? Record yourself talking aloud. Sound silly? Get over it. If it is the difference between demonstrating mastery and not, it is a good use of your time. (And don’t worry...after enough practice, you will no longer find a need to record your aloud thinking.)

Deeper analysis (commentary) built on the concepts of What, Why, How:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wwGPKm2VZEI>

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=60FLYbcvyl4&list=PLD5A73115896ADCC3&index=2&feature=plpp\\_video](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=60FLYbcvyl4&list=PLD5A73115896ADCC3&index=2&feature=plpp_video)