

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Period: \_\_\_\_\_

Common Core Review  
Mrs. Howard

### Understanding the Part 3 Task

For Part 3 of the Common Core Examination in English, you will read one textual selection. It may be a short, complete section or an excerpt from a longer work. You may take notes as you read the selection. After reading the text, you'll write three paragraphs based on your understanding and analysis of the selection. The first paragraph will be an introduction that introduces the passage and your thesis statement. The second paragraph will identify a central idea in the text and analyze how the central idea of the passage is developed. The third paragraph will discuss how the author uses a literary element or technique to develop the passage.

### Strategies for Reading the Part III Literary Selections

There are many different kinds of literary works, ranging from poems and stories to novels and memoirs to plays and literary essays. Authors of these works sometimes express themselves clearly and directly. Other times, they communicate their meaning through subtle implication or through the use of various literary techniques. The following suggestions will help you read, interpret, and understand the literary selections that appear in Part 3.

- **Consider how and why the writer uses specific literary elements and techniques.** Watch for the literary elements and techniques that writers use to convey their ideas. Recognizing these elements and techniques will help you analyze the selections and prepare you for writing the paragraphs.
- **Think about the author's purpose and point of view.** Why is the author writing this, and what is his or her attitude towards the subject?
- **Reread prose selections carefully.** Prose selections may be fiction or nonfiction. Examples of fiction include novels, short stories, and plays. Examples of nonfiction include memoirs, literary essays, and journals. Here are some tips for reading prose selections:
  - Identify the genre (type of literature) you're reading.
  - Think about the central point of the selection.
  - Identify main ideas in the selection, both stated and implied.
  - Reread all or parts of the selection as needed to fully grasp the author's meaning. Don't be tempted to skip sections that seem difficult. Instead, take the time to try and understand them.

- Don't limit your thinking to the literal. Look for multiple levels of meaning. For example, authors typically use symbolism to convey meaning. Therefore, an eagle soaring across the sky may represent freedom.

### The Basics: Literary Elements

Every work of literature is made up of a combination of elements. What makes each work unique is the creative way the author handles and blends these elements. As part of the second paragraph you will write for Part 3 of the Common Core exam, you will have to discuss the author's use of a specific literary element, such as those described below.

- **Characterization** refers to the creation and development of characters, the people who carry on the action in a literary work.
- **Mood** refers to the atmosphere or feeling of a literary work. For example, the mood may be joyful, gloomy or suspenseful.
- **The plot** of a short story, novel, or other narrative work is the sequence of events that take place.
- **Point of view** refers to the vantage point from which a story is told. For example, in first person point of view, the narrator himself or herself tells the story and may participate in the events. Works written in the first person use pronouns such as I, me, and my. In omniscient point of view, the author is an all-knowing impersonal observer who does not take part in events but can describe the thoughts and actions of all characters. A limited-omniscient point of view limits the description to the thoughts and feelings of one character even though the actions of other characters may be described fully.
- **Setting** is the time and place in which events occur.
- **Structure** refers to how the parts of a literary work are organized and arranged. For example, the structure of a novel may be based on chronological order with occasional flashbacks. The structure of poetry includes the number, form, and patterns of lines and stanzas.
- **The theme** of a literary work is its central idea.
- **Tone** is the attitude or viewpoint that an author shows toward his or her subject.

### The Basics: Literary Techniques

Authors and poets use many different techniques when they write. These techniques help to convey ideas and feelings and create memorable works of literature. As part of the paragraphs you write for Part 3 of the Common Core exam, you will have to discuss the authors' use of specific literary techniques, such as those described below.

- ***Allegory*** is the representation of ideas or moral principles by means of symbolic characters, events, or objects.
- ***Alliteration*** is the repetition of an initial (usually consonant) sound, as in “swift, silent, and serpent.”
- ***Figurative language*** refers to the use of words in an imaginative, non-literal sense. Similes and metaphors are examples of figurative language.
- ***Figures of speech*** are forms of expression in which the author uses language in an imaginative, non-literal sense in order to make a comparison or produce a desired effect.
  - ***Simile*** is a comparison using *like* or *as*.
  - ***Metaphor*** is a comparison between unlike objects that does not use *like* or *as*.
  - ***Personification*** is a figure of speech that applies human qualities to objects, ideas or animals.
  - ***Hyperbole*** is an exaggeration or overstatement for the purpose of emphasis.
  - ***Onomatopoeia*** refers to the use of words that sound like the things they name.
  - ***Oxymoron*** is a combination of two contradictory words.
- ***Flashback*** refers to the insertion of a scene showing an earlier event, often one that took place before the opening of a literary work.
- ***Foreshadowing*** refers to the suggestion of events to come.
- ***Imagery*** refers to the use of description of figurative language to create vivid images, or words. These images may appeal to the sense of sight or any of the other senses.
- ***Irony*** refers to a situation or event that is the opposite of what is or might be expected. It can also refer to the expression of an attitude or intention that is the opposite of what is actually meant.
- ***Repetition*** is the repeating of a word or group of words for effect.
- ***Rhetorical question*** is a question asked only for effect or to make a statement, not get an answer.
- ***Satire*** refers to writing that uses humor, irony, or wit to attack or make fun of something.

- ***Symbolism*** is the representation of ideas or things by symbols. A *symbol* is something that stands for something else.

### Taking Notes on Literary Selections

Here are some specific guidelines to help you get the most from the notes you take during Part 3 of the Common Core exam:

- **Focus on what you'll need in order to write your paragraphs.** When you take notes on the selection, you should record three things:
  - *Important ideas* in the selection, especially ideas that relate directly to the central idea
  - *Literary elements and techniques* that the author uses to convey their ideas

Notice that these three items are interconnected. That is, authors use literary elements and techniques to communicate their ideas.

- **Make your notes useful.** You'll certainly be referring back to the selection when you write your paragraphs. Your notes should help you identify key ideas and specific details and help you quickly find them in the text.
- **Be brief.** There's no need to write elaborate notes.
- **Draw tentative conclusions as you read.** Writing down preliminary conclusions as you read will help you think through and clarify for yourself how the selection develops the central idea. You can always expand them later.