Field of Dream

Literary Analysis

Sports Literature

Mr. Brocato

In order to write a literary analysis, you must keep the following in mind:

1. Use 25% plot and 75% analysis. Only the PLOT YOU NEED should go into the paper.

2. Use proper transitions from the plot to the analysis. Don’t have a style that looks like “Ray hears voices, which symbolically represents that his conscience is overtaking….” or “Ray is wearing red, which means….” You need to have the proper style in a lit analysis and it requires *delicate dexterity.*

3. Do not block quotations. Lead into or out of them.

4. Have a STRONG thesis and never let it slip the readers’ minds. A bad thesis may look like this: **In the movie, Ray Kinsella builds a baseball field on blind faith and eventually gets to play catch with his father.** Why is it bad? WHAT’S TO PROVE? IT’S ALL FACT. Here is one that may work: **In the movie Field of Dreams, multiple characters are symbolically reborn, requiring a painstaking process of complete mental transformation and internal faith.** Better. This sets up a nice structure of devoting a paragraph to Moonlight Graham, Terrance Mann, Ray Kinsella and maybe even Shoeless Joe if you’d like.

5. If all you do is regurgitate plot, you will fail. If your paper is about BLIND FAITH and its importance, you had better get a little philosophical about WHY people need blind faith and where in history blind faith has been used, and then pound into the movie and how it underlies most everything.

This is a large grade (300 points) and no papers will be accepted after the due date. If you are absent, email it.

3 pages, typed, MLA FORMAT

Here are the steps required for the completion of this paper:

Step 1: Do some basic research online of the movie, characters and elements of the plot. This is *ENRICHMENT* AND NOT A SUBSTITUTION FOR YOUR OWN IDEAS. **IF YOU ARE CAUGHT PLAGIARIZING THIS PAPER, YOU WILL MOST LIKELY FAIL THE COURSE.** If you find something online that is good, use it BUT CITE IT.

Step 2. Settle on a thesis and then create a laundry list of support from the movie. YOU NEED AT LEAST 5 DIRECT QUOTES FROM THE MOVIE IN YOUR PAPER.

Step 3: Pair up with another student in class and provide moral support.

Step 4: draft. Needs to be thoroughly edited by your partner and ALSO ANOTHER PERSON IN THE WORLD

Step 5: FINAL DRAFT. PERFECT, NO TYPOES, NO GRAMMAR ERRORS.

**POSSIBLE IDEAS FOR YOUR LIT ANALYSIS**

Idealism-v-commerce

Surround your analysis around a quote:

“This field, this team, is part of your past Ray. It reminds us of what was good and can be again”- Terrance Mann

“The one constant through all these years has been baseball…”

“They will come Ray…for it’s peace they lack”

Importance of BLIND FAITH

The quotes and the ‘meaning behind their meaning.” **If you build it, he will come. Ease his pain. Go the distance.**

What’s in it for the major characters? Ray, Terrance, Moonlight, Shoeless Joe. All about regaining youthful passions? Terrance said he wrote about his dream of playing for the Dodgers at Ebbets Field…

Role of Annie in the movie

Why Shoeless Joe? Analyze his controversy and why it fits with Ray and the plot/subplots

Regaining Youth

Ray hears HIS OWN voice all along, not Shoeless Joe’s

The ultimate, underlying reasons behind Ray’s actions. Guilt? Insecurity? Inadequacy? Confusion? The mind is a curious thing

Illusion-v-Reality

Importance of suspending reality, through illusion, in order to get the audience to suspend disbelief. How does the author/director manipulate the viewer in order to get him to buy into the plot?

Rebirth: a painstaking process of complete transformation and rebuilding of the mind, spirit and soul

Faith (especially during Ray’s journey away from family and with marriage falling apart a little)

Sacrifice

Redemption

Field of Dreams as allegory (a symbolic representation of something beyond itself) : go to the quote “the one constant through all these years has been baseball…”

Ray’s immediate family versus past family…relationship

Yearning for youth to return to simpler times…Mann and catcher connection

Persistence in the movie..parts where Ray could have given up

Ray Kinsella as a classic hero: brave, noble, goes on a journey of physical and mental discovery, earns respect through actions, flaws

Darkness and Light in the movie

Father/Son relationship…the classic coexistence

Carpe Diem

Biblical/Fable elements: faith under pressure, forgiveness, redemption

Second chances

Epic journey to discover oneself/destiny

Significance of book banning scene within context of novel

Importance of real baseball references in the film