



# GI: Skills Card

Reader: \_\_\_\_\_ Room: \_\_\_\_\_

## Literary Analysis

	Key Questions for Literature	Key Questions for Informational Text	Social/Political/Historical Context
Central Ideas	<p>What is the theme? How does it develop from the beginning to the end of this text?</p>	<p>What is the main idea or central argument? How does it develop from the beginning to the end of this text?</p>	<p>Who is the author of this text and what do you know about him/her? What can you infer from the text?</p> <p>When was this text written?</p> <p>How might the themes or central ideas of the text reflect the issues of the era/culture in which it was written?</p>
Key Details	<p>What elements of the text best support your argument that this is the theme of the text?</p> <p>Describe the following literary elements in the text. Explain how each contributes to your argument for the central theme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plot (main events, conflict, rising action, climax, falling action, resolution)</li> <li>Characters (motivations of major and minor characters, complex characters)</li> <li>Setting (time, day, year, historical period, place, situation)</li> </ul>	<p>What elements of the text best support your argument that this is the main idea of the text?</p> <p>What reasoning and evidence does the author use to support the central argument? Is it valid? Relevant? Sufficient? Is any of it fallacious?</p> <p>Has s/he convinced you? Why or why not? What evidence would have made a stronger argument?</p>	<p>How do you think the elements/details of the text reflect the era/culture in which it was written?</p> <p>In what ways did the author's choice of words contribute to his/her purpose for writing?</p>
Use of Language	<p>Describe the way this author uses language. What kinds of words/phrases does he/she use? Why?</p> <p>What effect do his/her language choices have on text meaning, sense of time and place, and tone?</p> <p>Which words/phrases struck you as important, unusual, or interesting? Why?</p> <p>How does the author's use of language relate to the central theme or argument?</p>		<p>How do you think the language of the text reflects the era/culture in which it was written?</p>



# G1: Skills Card continued

## Literary Analysis continued

	Key Questions for Literature	Key Questions for Informational Text	Social/Political/Historical Context
Organization and Structure	<p>Describe the choices this author made when deciding how to structure specific parts of the text:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where to begin and end the story</li> <li>Comedic or tragic resolution</li> <li>Development of the central conflict</li> <li>Use of poetry or prose</li> </ul> <p>Speculate as to why these choices were made. Would you have done anything differently?</p> <p>How do the structural choices of the author contribute to the central theme?</p>	<p>Describe the choices this author made when deciding how to structure the central argument or exposition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The order in which the points are made</li> <li>How they are introduced and developed</li> <li>The connections that are drawn between them</li> <li>How they support what you claim is the central/main idea</li> </ul> <p>Speculate as to why these choices were made. Were they effective? Why or why not? Would you have done anything differently?</p>	<p>How do you think that the structure of this text might reflect the era/culture in which it was written?</p>
Perspective	<p>What is the author's point of view (perspective/opinion) or purpose for writing? How do you know?</p> <p>In what ways might the book have been different had it been written by someone with a different background? By you?</p>	<p>What is the author's point of view (perspective/opinion) or purpose for writing? How do you know?</p> <p>What does rhetoric mean? How does this author use rhetoric to advance his/her point of view or purpose?</p>	<p>How does the author's cultural background, geographical location, or historical time period shape his/her perspective?</p>
Source Materials	<p>What other source materials (themes, philosophies, characters, plots, quotes from other authors/sources) did the author use in writing this work? How do you know?</p> <p>Why do you think they were used? How did the author change the source material?</p> <p>How is the source material related to the central theme or idea?</p>		<p>Based on the style and form of the text, what authors do you think might have influenced this author?</p>

## Vocabulary

Find a word you don't know and would like to learn. Use the context to figure out what it probably means. Think of a word or phrase that could take its place in the book without changing the meaning. Check the meaning in a dictionary. Use the word in a sentence. Learn it.