

Critical lens Student Study Packet

Name: _____

Critical Lens Essay

Your Task:

Write a critical essay in which you discuss **two** works of literature you have read from the particular perspective of the statement that is provided for you in the critical lens. In your essay, provide a valid interpretation of the statement, agree **or** disagree with the statement as you have interpreted it, and support your opinion using specific references to appropriate literary elements from the two works. You may use scrap paper to plan your response.

Critical Lens:

Critical Lens will go here.

Guidelines (Checklist):

Be sure to (did you...)

- Mention the **title** and **author**? (intro)
- Explain what the **quote means in your own words**? (intro)
- Agree** or **disagree** with the quote? (intro)
- Support your opinion **using example from the story**? (body)
- Make specific reference to **literary terms** (for example: theme, characterization, setting, point of view, irony, etc.) to prove your point? (body)
- Organize your ideas** in a three-paragraph structure? (intro, body, conclusion)

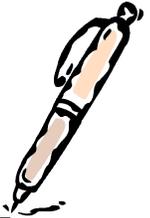
****Tip** – start your introduction off with the quote!

How to write your Critical Lens:

To start:

1. Start by writing right on the essay booklet. Write anything and everything you can think of for 30 seconds.
2. Make the T-Chart:

<u>Text #1:</u>	<u>Text #2:</u>
<u>Literary Term:</u> <i>(you could, and maybe should, use the same literary term for both texts)</i>	<u>Literary Term:</u>
<u>Example #1:</u>	<u>Example #1:</u>
<u>Example #2:</u>	<u>Example #2:</u>



Notes: This T-Chart should only take you another 1 ½ to 2 minutes to complete. Do not toil. Just give yourself something to write about. You can hash it out when you begin writing.

Intro Fill-In the Blank:

_____ states, “_____.”

In other words, _____

This is a (true or false) statement because _____

For example, this can be seen in _____ (literary Term) found in _____, by _____, and _____, by _____.



Introduction:

Turn your information from above into your introduction:

Formula:

(Author) states, (Restate Critical Lens). In other words, _____. This is a _____ statement because _____.

For example, this can be seen in _____(literary term), found in _____, by _____, and _____, by _____.

Example:

John Knowsville states, “Readers can learn just as much from the villains in literature as from the heroes.” In other words, a reader can learn a lot about life from the actions of the bad characters as he/she can from the actions of the good characters. This is a true statement because the way the character behaves can teach one a lot about how to live his/her life. For example, this can be seen in the characters found in the short stories, “The Veldt,” by Ray Bradbury, and “The Lottery,” by Shirley Jackson.



Body Paragraphs:

Rules:

1. Have more than one body paragraph. (2 pieces of literature = 2 body paragraphs)
2. Outline your body paragraphs on scrap paper before beginning (4 square).
3. Use **specific details** from each story/novel/play to support your ideas. I must be able to tell that you have read and understood the story you are talking about!!!

Formula:

In _____ (title of one of the pieces), one can see _____ (connect to the quote). _____

_____ (at least 5 sentences).

(Last sentence should connect back to your main idea/quote) _____

***Repeat for the second body paragraph



Conclusion:

Be sure to:

- Restate titles and authors
- Add the Critical Lens and explanation
- Wrap up your essay with ***a new thought.***

Example:

Instead of: The characters' behaviors in each of these pieces of literature suggest to the reader this warning about how to live.

New thought: If it wasn't for the villainous characters in these two stories, the lesson to be learned at the end would not be the same

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Critical Lens:

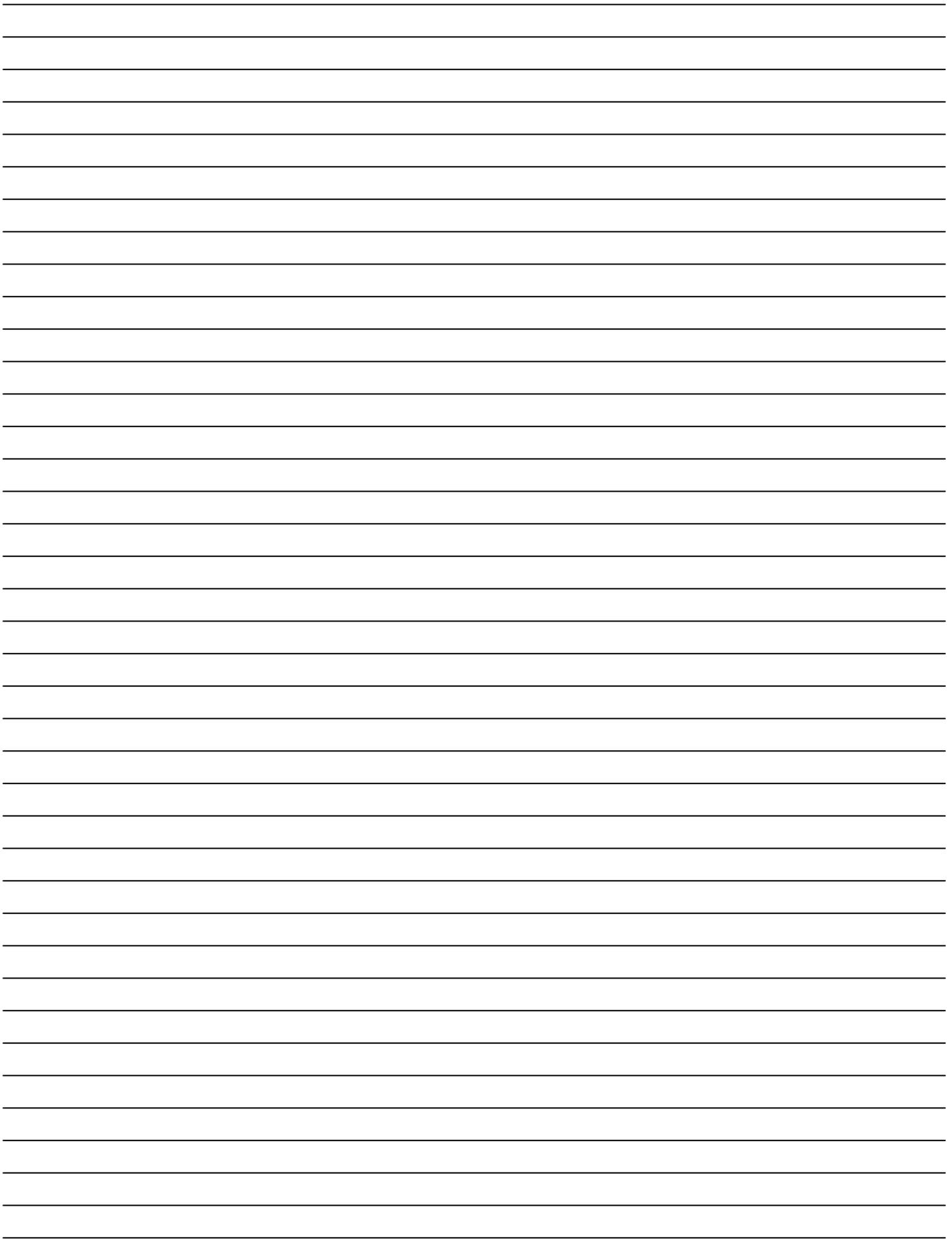
“If you want to hold your reader’s attention, give him/her something to worry about.”
--Ayn Rand

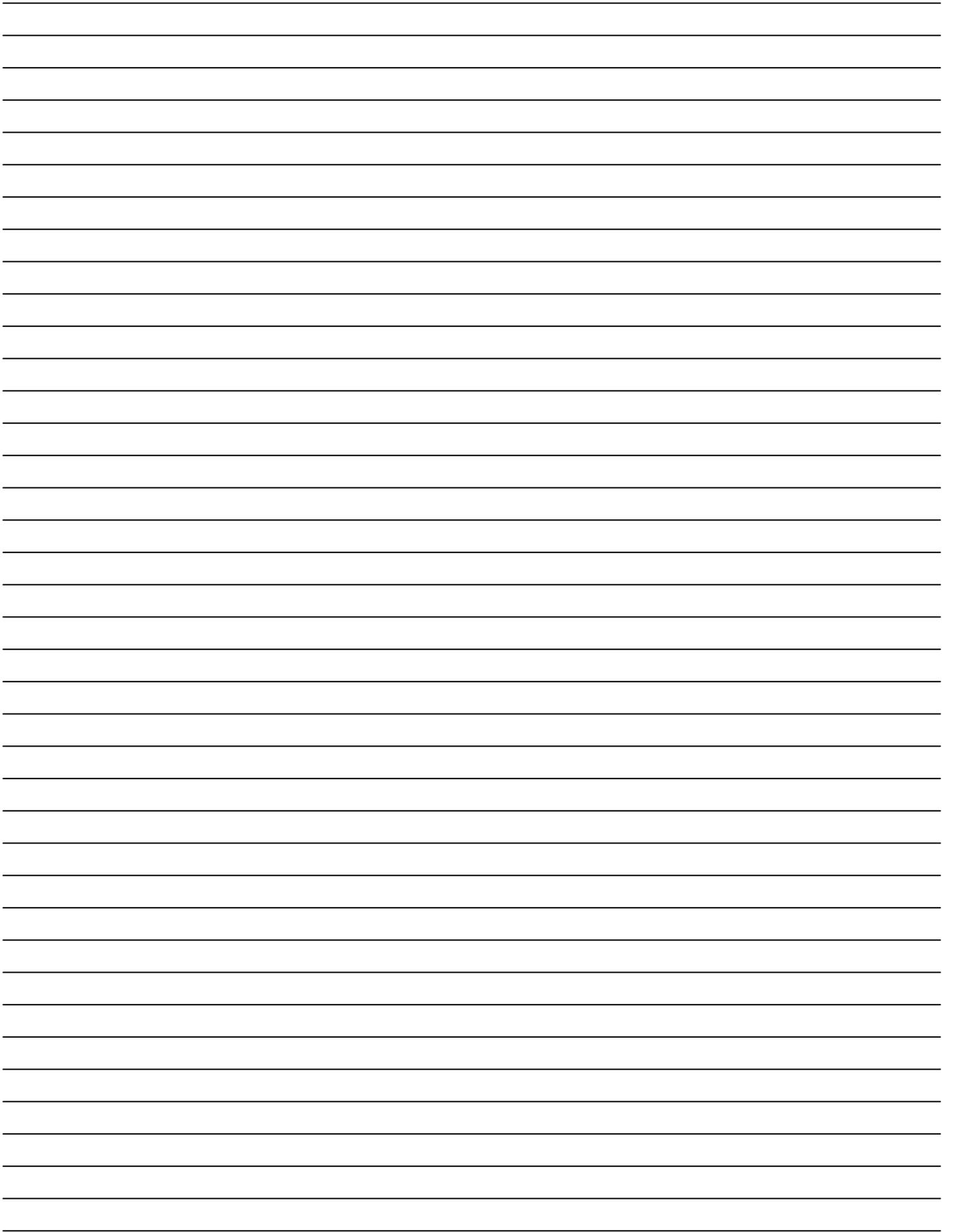
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- Agree** or **disagree** with the quote? (intro)
- Support your opinion **using examples from both stories**? (body)
- Make specific reference to **literary terms** (for example: theme, characterization, setting, point of view, irony, etc.) to prove your point? (body)
- Organize your ideas** in a four-paragraph structure? (intro, body, conclusion)

****Tip** – start your introduction off with the quote!





Note: The following page is a bonus for you. I copy 4 - 5 of these worksheets and attach them to the end of Critical Lens Packet. The students can go back after they read each novel or story and write a new chart. At the end of the year you can have them write an "open-notebook" Critical Lens using these worksheets.

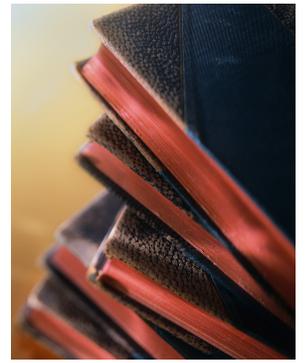
Additional Notes:

- 1. Copy, paste, and save page 2 as a separate document for other Critical Lens assignments in the future. All you will have to do is enter the quote into the box.**
- 2. You could easily copy, paste, and print out pages 3-5 for students to write on while working on an actual Critical Lens. I have, in the past, put them into clear binder pages and given the students transparency markers to write on them. They can be wiped clean when they are done for a future essay.**

Literary Terms Chart:

Title: _____

Author: _____



Literary Term	Definition	Examples from the text (with page numbers)
Theme		

What other texts have you read that you could compare this one to?

Text	Detail about this text	Examples from the text