

AP English IV Summer Reading Literary Analysis Assignment

Invisible Man

Ralph Ellison

Directions for Assignment:

While you are reading *Invisible Man*, find at least one quote that is an example of the literary element which is listed on the chart for each chapter. Use a minimum of six sentences to complete the commentary/literary discussion. Make sure the discussion is connected to the quote, and identify and discuss at least two other literary elements from the quote. You may type in your entries on the chart.

Suggestions for Writing Commentary on a Literary Analysis Discussion

A good literary analysis shows not only skill in composition, but also depth of explanation and understanding of the literary piece and of the literary devices the author uses within a piece of literature.

1. Focus strictly on the text of the passage.
2. Information that has not been placed in the passage by the author should not be included in this type of analysis.
3. Background information about the author or the work itself, while often interesting and enlightening, should not be a part of an analysis.
4. Examine and explain the use of literary devices in the quote that you select. Often the literary device helps to communicate one of the themes from the story.

Quote Example and Commentary

An example of allusion, pun, setting, repetition, and foreshadowing:

Quote: Prologue, pages 7 and 12

Page 7 – “Now I have one radio-phonograph...I’d like to hear five recordings of Louis Armstrong playing and singing “What Did I Do to Be so Black and Blue”- all the same time....”

Page 14 – (last line of Prologue) – “But what did *I* do to be so blue? Bear with me.”

Louis Armstrong’s song, “What Did I Do to Be so Black and Blue?” is a major component of the Prologue of *Invisible Man*. On three different occasions in the Prologue of *Invisible Man*, the narrator *alludes* to the great trumpet player and singer, Louis Armstrong, playing and singing this song. It is the first of many references to the blues, an important tradition in black music that allows both the performer and the listener to express their suffering in musical terms, to make art out of their pain and sorrow. The title “Black and Blue” is a *pun* on both words. It means “bruised” or “hurt.” It also means “a member of the black race” and “sad or depressed.” Also, the reference to radio-phonograph and jazz music helps to authenticate the 1930s to 1950s *setting* of the novel. In addition, *repetition* of the narrator’s question, “What did I do to be so black and blue?” both throughout the Prologue and as the very last line in this section *foreshadows* the narrator’s quest to answer this question throughout the rest of the novel.

Invisible Man
by
Ralph Ellison

DIRECTIONS: Find at least one quote that supports your literary analysis discussion.	NOTE PAGE or ROUGH Draft (use while reading)
	*Use a minimum of six sentences to complete the commentary/literary discussion. Make sure the discussion is connected to the quote.
Prologue	
Focus: Irony	
Quote:	Commentary (Discuss the author's use of irony, using at least two other literary analysis terms to help defend your perspective.):
Chapter 1	
Focus: Allusion	
Quote:	Commentary (Discuss how allusion is used in Chapter 1, along with the purpose and use of at least two other literary analysis terms or devices.):
Chapter 2	
Focus: Repetition	
Quote:	Commentary (Discuss the use of repetition in Chapter 2, along with at least two other literary analysis terms.):

Invisible Man
by
Ralph Ellison

Chapter 3	
Focus: Foreshadowing	
Quote:	Commentary (Discuss the author's use of foreshadowing in Chapter 3, along with two other literary analysis terms.):
Chapter 4	
Focus: Metaphor	
Quote:	Commentary (Discuss the use of metaphors, and explain the author's incorporation of two other literary devices used in Chapter 4.):
Chapter 5	
Focus: Simile	
Quote:	Commentary (Discuss the use and purpose of simile, along with two other literary devices used in Chapter 5.):

Invisible Man
by
Ralph Ellison

Chapter 6	
Focus: Characterization	
Quote:	Commentary (Discuss the development of Doctor Bledsoe's characterization, using at least two other literary devices to help defend your perspective.):
Chapter 7	
Focus: Anaphora	
Quote:	Commentary (Discuss the author's use of anaphora and allusion in Chapter 7.):
Chapter 8	
Focus: Irony	
Quote:	Commentary (Discuss the author's use of irony throughout Chapter 8; include the use of at least two other literary analysis terms or devices.):

Invisible Man
by
Ralph Ellison

Chapter 9	
Focus: Diction	
Quote:	Commentary (Discuss the use of diction in Chapter 9, along with the author's use of two literary devices from Chapter 9.):
Chapter 10	
Focus: Characterization	
Quote:	Commentary (Discuss the characterization (compare/contrast), along with two literary devices used in Chapter 10.):
Chapter 11	
Focus: Diction and Syntax	
Quote:	Commentary (What is the purpose and effect of the diction and syntax in Chapter 11.):

Invisible Man
by
Ralph Ellison

Chapter 12	
Focus: Syntax	
Quote:	Commentary (Discuss the rhetorical purpose and effect of the syntax used in Chapter 12.):
Chapter 13	
Focus: Narrator's Rhetorical Arugument	
Quote:	Commentary (Discuss the purpose and effect of the narrator's rhetorical argument, along with at least two other literary devices from Chapter 13.):
Chapter 14	
Focus: Imagery	
Quote:	Commentary (Discuss the author's use of imagery, along with two other literary devices used in Chapter 14.):

Invisible Man
by
Ralph Ellison

Chapter 15	
Focus: Irony	
Quote:	Commentary (Discuss the author's use of irony, along with at least two other literary devices in Chapter 15.):
Chapter 16	
Focus: Narrator	
Quote:	Commentary (Discuss and connect three literary devices to the "narrator" in Chapter 16.):
Chapter 17	
Focus: Paradox	
Quote:	Commentary (Discuss and defend the author's use of humor and paradox in Chapter 17.):

Invisible Man
by
Ralph Ellison

Chapter 18	
Focus: Conflict	
Quote:	Commentary (Discuss the author's use and purpose of conflict in Chapter 18.):
Chapter 19	
Focus: Setting and Tone	
Quote:	Commentary (Discuss the conflict of setting and tone, along with the use and effect of syntax in Chapter 19.):
Chapter 20	
Focus: Irony and Stereotypes	
Quote:	Commentary (Discuss the irony of stereotypes, along with at least two other literary devices from Chapter 20.):

Invisible Man
by
Ralph Ellison

Chapter 21	
Focus: Personification	
Quote:	Commentary (Discuss the author's use of personification, along with at least two other literary terms or devices from Chapter 21.):
Chapter 22	
Focus: Conflict	
Quote:	Commentary (Discuss the purpose and effect of conflict in Chapter 22.):
Chapter 23	
Focus: Symbolism	
Quote:	Commentary (Discuss the purpose of "invisibility" as a symbol in Chapter 23.):

Invisible Man
by
Ralph Ellison

Chapter 24	
Focus: Student Choice	
Quote:	Commentary (Discuss the purpose and effect of at least two literary devices or terms.):
Chapter 25	
Focus: Student Choice	
Quote:	Commentary (Discuss the purpose and effect of at least two literary devices or terms.):
Epilogue	
Focus: Polysyndeton	
Quote:	Commentary (Discuss the author's purpose and use of polysyndeton, along with the effect of the rhetorical question at the end of the novel.):

Name: _____
Block: _____

Date: _____
AP ENGLISH IV

Invisible Man
Summer Reading Assignment Rubric

Chapter One	
Score Quote/Commentary Chapter 1:	Teacher Comments:
4	
3	
2	
1	

Chapter Four	
Score Quote/Commentary Chapter 4:	Teacher Comments:
4	
3	
2	
1	

Chapter Two	
Score Quote/Commentary Chapter 2:	Teacher Comments:
4	
3	
2	
1	

Chapter Five	
Score Quote/Commentary Chapter 5:	Teacher Comments:
4	
3	
2	
1	

EXAMPLE

Chapter Three	
Score Quote/Commentary Chapter Three:	Teacher Comments:
4	
3	
2	
1	

Chapter Six	
Score Quote/Commentary Chapter Six:	Teacher Comments:
4	
3	
2	
1	

Name: _____

Block: _____

Date: _____

AP ENGLISH IV

Invisible Man

Point Explanation:

4 Quote choice and commentary demonstrates depth in understanding of the chapter or book as a whole.

Commentary meets the requirements of a four while showing maturity in thought and writing style.

3 Quote is a valid choice and is connected to the focus or purpose. Commentary meets the requirements for a three and shows insight and depth of thought.

2 Quote choice is loosely connected to the purpose or focus. Commentary lacks insight or does not meet minimum requirement of six sentences per quote. It may be too short or may not adequately relate to the focus, purpose, and/or the book as a whole.

1 Quote is not well chosen or fails to meet requirement. Commentary is minimal or is not in a complete sentence(s). Commentary may also restate the quote or action/plot within the novel and not offer any sign of understanding or depth.

WARNING: DO NOT restate or use SPARK NOTES, CLIFF'S NOTES, or any other COMMERCIAL or Internet STUDY GUIDE as your source(s) of information. Avoid plagiarism of other materials or other students.