**“On the Rainy River”, Tim O’Brien**

**Building Background:**

* The setting for this short story is during the Vietnam War
* Complete some background research
	+ When?
	+ What?
	+ Who?
	+ Reaction of citizens (contributes to social environment)

**Before Reading:**

* What is a moral emergency?
* How do you think you would react in such a situation?

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**During Reading:**

* Read: highlight and annotate

**After Reading:**

* Complete a detailed fiction critical analysis (in groups)
	+ include **symbolism and allusion**
		- You must explain the allusions- research whatever is necessary
* Write a bio poem (as a group)
* Complete an in-class personal, critical response assignment (individual summative)

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**Critical Response:**

|  |
| --- |
| What ideas and impressions does the text suggest to you about **circumstances that compel us to respond**? Develop your response by referring to the story. |

***In your writing, you should***

* select a ***prose form***that is appropriate to the ideas you wish to express

and that will enable you to effectively communicate to the reader

* discuss ideas and impressions that are meaningful to you
* respond from a ***personal, critical perspective*** (retell and reflect)
* consider how you can create a ***strong unifying effect***

**Fiction: Analysis**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Topic** | * What concept or issue is this work about?
 |
| **Setting** | * Place
* Time
* Social environment
 |
| **Characterization** | * Major character
* Key traits
* How are they revealed?
* Include at least three quotes from the story as support
 |
| **Structure** | * How has the author arranged the events of the plot?
* Does the action lead towards a climax or turning point?
* Is there a resolution of conflicts or a revelation?
* Why does the work end as it does?
 |
| **Style** | * Figurative language (imagery, simile, metaphor)
* Allusions
* Symbolism
* Irony
* How does the title relate to the work?
 |
| **Tone** | * What is the author’s attitude about the story and reader? (admiring, ironic, serious, sincere, mocking, intense…)
 |
| **Point of View** | * From which point of view is the story told?
* What effect does this have?
 |
| **Theme** | * What is the central idea of the story?
 |

**BioPoem**

A **BioPoem** is a structured collection of vivid details about a character's life, personality traits and aspirations: a portrait in words. Begin each line with the words in quotes where indicated, and after research supply the details requested in the parentheses. Good luck!

**Line 1:** (Character's first name)

**Line 2:** "Relative of..." or Friend of..." (List 3 or 4 relatives or friends)

**Line 3:** (List 4 character traits that would describe this person or his personality

**Line 4:** (Position or job)

**Line 5:** "Lover of..." (3 things, people, activities, etc.)

**Line 6:** "Who felt..." (3 emotions and explanations)

**Line 7:** "Who has been..." (3 places or events this character has been)

**Line 8:** "Who needed..." (3 descriptions of things this character may have needed)

**Line 9:** "Who feared..." (3 descriptions of things this character may have feared)

**Line 10:** "Who gave..." (3 descriptions of what this character has given to family, friends, the world,

etc.)

**Line 11:** "Who longed for..." (3 descriptions)

**Line 12:** "Who would like to have seen..." (3 descriptions of things the character may have wanted to

have seen in his lifetime)

**Line 13:** (Synonym - one profound word that describes the character)

**Line 14:** "Resident of..." (description of place, dates, location, etc.)

**Line 15:** (Character's last name)

**Winnie the Pooh**

Winnie

Cheerful, optimistic, loyal, 'a bear of very little brain'

Friend of Piglet, Christopher Robin, Eeyore and Tigger

Teddy bear, friend, confidante and honey hunter

Lover of honey, impromptu songs and hums, honey and more honey

Who feels adventurous on expeditions, fearful of Woozles and protective of Piglet

Who fell out of a tree, got pulled into the air by a kite and walked in the 100 Acre Wood

Who needed advice from Christopher Robin, occasional mothering from Kanga and a 'little something' at 11:00

Who feared empty honey pots, Tigger's bounces and bees

Who gave Eeyore the house he already had, the game of Pooh-Sticks to his friends and unlimited love to

Christopher Robin

Who longed for more honey, to look like a cloud and fly

Who would like to have seen Christopher Robin remain a child forever, the return of 'small' and Eeyore happy

Loveable

Resident of 100 Acre Wood and Christopher Robin's imagination

The Pooh