

## Tips for Using Quotations in Literary Analysis

1. Break the poem or passage into distinct sections, drawing a line at each shift.
2. Identify the important details & techniques in each section and the way all the sections and details fit together to form the poem or passage.

(Doing the two steps above is the equivalent of the “4-Step Literary Analysis” described on the opposite side of this page.)

3. When you write your analysis, discuss each section of the poem/passage in the order in which it appears. Ideally, discuss each section in its own separate body paragraph.

In each body paragraph, identify the key details in that section and the important effects created by these details. Feel free to use and modify these sentence-starters:

To begin a body paragraph:

**The poem’s/passage’s first section focuses on \_\_\_\_\_.**

**OR**

**The second/third/etc. section shifts to \_\_\_\_\_ OR presents us with \_\_\_\_\_.**

To introduce a quotation:

**In this section, it is important when the speaker says, “\_\_\_\_\_” (line #).**

**OR**

**The narrator describes \_\_\_\_\_ by using the words/phrase “\_\_\_\_\_.”**

4. Immediately after each quotation, analyze the literary techniques involved and their significant effects (i.e., what the details contribute to tone, the author’s attitude, etc.):

**This \_\_\_\_\_ (*specific technique, such as diction, etc.*) suggests/reveals/ implies that**

\_\_\_\_\_.

**(*Explain the language’s effects—how it contributes to attitude and tone.*)**

NOTES:

- A. When you are quoting a single word or a short phrase, you can often combine steps 3 & 4 above into one single sentence.
- B. However, when you are quoting a longer phrase, a clause, or a complete sentence, it usually is too complex to both quote and analyze the evidence all in one sentence. That’s why I recommend two sentences in steps 3 & 4 above.