

Year 9 Sample Lesson

Thematic Analysis — Interpreting Values & Composer's Craft

Lesson Overview

Term	Term 1 — Thematic Textual Study
Duration	60 minutes
Skill Focus	Thematic analysis — interpreting how values, perspectives and technique construct meaning
Text Type	Prose extract (literary fiction)
Resources	Skill Mastery workbook — Critical Analysis & Exam Essays

Learning Goals

- ✓ Identify the central themes and values of a literary text
- ✓ Analyse how the composer uses technique to position the reader toward those values
- ✓ Construct a sophisticated thesis that interprets thematic meaning
- ✓ Write a conceptual TEEL paragraph with integrated evidence and critical metalanguage
- ✓ Evaluate the effectiveness of the composer's craft

Sample Text Extract

She had not spoken in three days. Not because she lacked words — she had an entire ocean of them, pressing at the back of her teeth — but because no one in this house had ever listened. Her mother moved through the kitchen like a ghost, touching surfaces, lifting nothing. Her father's chair sat empty at the head of the table, a throne abandoned mid-reign. Elara set her fork down and looked at the window. Outside, the garden her grandmother had planted was still growing — wild and deliberate and entirely indifferent to the silence inside. — Writing Club practice extract, Year 9 Skill Mastery

Activity 1 — Thematic Mapping (10 min)

Identify the themes present in the extract and note the technique that conveys each:

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Silence & repression	'an entire ocean of them, pressing at the back of her teeth' — extended metaphor	Reader feels the weight of suppressed emotion and understands Elara's isolation
Family dysfunction	'a throne abandoned mid-reign' — metaphor	_____
_____	_____	_____

Activity 2 — Sophisticated Thesis (10 min)

Craft a thesis that identifies a theme, the technique used to explore it, and the values the composer positions the reader to consider:

Model thesis: *"In the extract, the composer uses extended metaphor and symbolism to explore the theme of emotional repression within the family, positioning the reader to recognise the destructive cost of silence on individual identity."* Your thesis: _____

Activity 3 — Conceptual TEEL Paragraph (20 min)

Write a sophisticated analytical paragraph using your thesis as a guide.

T — Topic Sentence	Open with a conceptual claim about theme and values — not just technique. Avoid 'In this text, the author uses...'
E — Evidence	Embed a precise, well-chosen quote. Short, sharp, and directly relevant.
E — Explanation	Name the technique. Analyse its effect on the reader. Link to the theme and the composer's values or purpose.
L — Link	Extend your analysis — connect to a broader idea, societal value or the text's overall argument.

Activity 4 — Self-Evaluation (5 min)

- ✓ Re-read your paragraph. Does your topic sentence make a conceptual claim — not just identify a technique?
- ✓ Is your quote embedded naturally into a full sentence?
- ✓ Have you explained the effect on the reader, not just the technique?
- ✓ Does your link connect to a broader theme, value or societal idea?

Critical Metalanguage Bank

- | | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| • positions the reader | • constructs meaning | • challenges assumptions |
| • interrogates | • subverts | • values and perspectives |
| • thematic concern | • symbolic resonance | • authorial intent |
| • conceptual link | • ideological | • nuanced |

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