

Eighth Grade Language Arts/Reading

1. Dramatic irony occurs when a character's words and/or actions in a novel mean something different to the reader than they do to the character. You, the reader, know more than the character does. Provide an example of dramatic irony in the novel. Does it create an effect of suspense or humor in this instance, or does the author have another purpose for using dramatic irony?
2. What is the theme of the novel? Citing specific text (with the appropriate documentation), explain how the theme develops over the course of the novel. Pay attention to how the theme is developed through the characters and setting, too.
3. Cite several lines of dialogue that reveal protagonist Heather's character. What do those lines of dialogue tell you about her? Pick another character in the story and analyze three lines of dialogue. What does this secondary character's dialogue reveal about who this fictional person is and his/her role in the story?
4. Cite two lines of dialogue that propel the action in the novel. Cite one line of dialogue that provokes a decision for protagonist Heather.
5. Cite three different types of figurative language (metaphor, simile, hyperbole, synecdoche, puns, personification, understatement) used by the author in the novel.
6. The setting in all of the Ghost Handlers Novels is the fictional suburb of Pecan Hills, Georgia and for Hainted Love, Jekyll Island, Georgia. Heather and the secondary characters are Georgians. Cite specific characteristics (descriptions, word choice, dialogue, theme, historical context) that let you know this story is written from a Georgian perspective. Does the author get it right? Why or why not?

Writing Assignment:

Turn your answer to one of Questions 1-3 into a five hundred to one thousand word essay with an introduction, thesis and supporting arguments citing your textual evidence in body paragraphs, and a conclusion.

Revising Assignment:

Analyze how two writing peers succeeded in presenting their argument about the author's theme, the use of dramatic irony, or how dialogue reveals character. Use the following criteria in your analysis. Is your peer's introduction interesting? Has he/she included a strong thesis statement in the introduction? How well is his/her thesis developed in the body of the essay? Does the textual evidence cited prove his/her thesis? What part(s) left you unconvinced? Can you offer any suggestions for improvement in the body paragraphs? Re-read your peer's conclusion. Does it reiterate the thesis? Does the essay conclude in a memorable way? What does your peer do well in the essay? What suggestions can you offer your peer for improvement?

The students will use their peers' evaluations to improve the next draft of the essay. Essays will be exchanged with different students for proofreading with an eye for grammar and mechanics, and fixes made before the essay is turned in with all drafts to the teacher.