**Prose Excerpt Study Guide**

INSTRUCTIONS: ANSWER THE QUESTIONS AS ANNOTATIONS ON THE TEXT AND IN THE MARGINS, INCLUDING THE QUESTION # ON THE ANNOTATION.

Snow Flower and the Secret Fan

Terms to review: characterization, figurative language, point of view

Questions:

1. What are the benefits of choosing a 1st person point of view in this excerpt?
2. How would the story be altered if the point of view was in 3rd person omniscient?
3. Characterize the relationship between mother and daughter (the daughter is the speaker as an old woman looking back and remember this experience of foot binding from when she was seven years old.) Do they get along? Is there any conflict, and if so, describe it, etc. Label evidence from the text to support your assumptions.
4. The descriptions of the foot binding process are excruciating to read/imagine. Mark and label five especially powerful sentences/phrases that, for you, made you cringe the most!
5. Now analyze what literary devices were used to create such a powerful description: imagery? Figurative language? Selection of detail? Word connotations?

The Awakening-Kate Chopin

Terms to review: figurative language, imagery, and point of view

Questions:

1. What are the benefits of choosing a 3rd person omniscient point of view in this excerpt?
2. How would the story be altered if the point of view was in1st person with Edna herself telling the story?
3. Choose and annotate three examples of effective figurative language (such as a simile) and explain WHY it is effective (effective=emotionally moves or captivates the reader).
4. Do the same with three examples of imagery…be sure to explain which of the five senses you are analyzing.

Life of Pi-Yann Martel

Terms to review: figurative language, imagery, and point of view

Questions:

1. This excerpt starts in 1st person POV then switches to 2nd as indicated by all the “You, Your” pronouns signally the narrator is talking directly to you. Explain why this switch to 2nd person is effective, given the topic the narrator is discussing.
2. Annotate two examples of imagery. Explain specifically which senses are being engaged via words and how effective you think the words are in making the experience “real” for the reader.
3. Ditto with two examples of figurative language.
4. On a scale from 1-5, with 5 the highest, rate the author on his rhetorical effectiveness (in other words, how convincing was he in describing the subject of fear)?

Cold Mountain-Charles Frazier

Terms to review: selection of detail, tone

Questions:

1. The sight described by the author selects particular details to maximize the effect on the reader. Choose and annotate three strong/emotional sentences/phrases that seemed the most powerful to you in conveying Inman’s experience.
2. Remember, tone is the emotions/attitudes of the author toward his/her subject/topic and is usually expressed in adjectives, such as jubilant, sarcastic, depressed, enraged, etc.) Describe the tone of this excerpt in with at least two specific adjectives and then defend them with evidence (words) from the text.

The Inheritance of Loss-Kiran Desai

Terms to review: figurative language, imagery, and characterization

Questions:

1. Choose and annotate three examples of effective figurative language (such as a simile) and explain WHY it is effective (effective=emotionally moves or captivates the reader).
2. Do the same with three examples of imagery…be sure to explain which of the five senses you are analyzing.
3. Based on the evidence in the text, how would you characterize the protagonist Jemubhai? Name at least two personality/character traits AND support those claims with textual evidence.

Cutting for Stone-Abraham Verghese

Terms to review: narrative pace (slowing down for details to covering several years quickly), characterization, figurative language, imagery, mood/atmosphere

Questions:

1. How does the author control narrative pace (passing of time in the story), and why do you think he paces it the way he does in this excerpt? Annotate where there is a time reference in the excerpt.
2. The relationship between the boy Thomas Stone and his mother is quite co-dependent and intense. Annotate three pieces of evidence that supports this.
3. Based on the descriptions of Thomas’s father, Justifus Stone, what is the mood/atmosphere of the house?
4. Label your favorite (most effective to you as a reader) example of a figurative device AND an image (sight, sound, smell, texture, taste). Why were these effective?

The Elegance of the Hedgehog-Muriel Barbury

Terms to review: humor

Questions:

1. How does the author create humor/comedy in this excerpt?
2. Label five examples of humor in this excerpt and explain WHY they are funny to you ☺