

Questions for Theme Analysis

DIRECTIONS: Use the following to plan a theme essay on your banned book. For this assignment, you will not actually end writing an essay; rather, you will craft a theme statements using the universal theme words and will collect evidence that would support an essay. Answer the following questions to show you would be able to draft that essay.

1. What important idea or theme does this literary work convey?
2. What do characters *do* that helps to illustrate this idea?
3. What do characters *say* that helps to illustrate this idea?
4. What *events* take place in the work that help to illustrate this idea?
5. Are there any *recurrent images* or clusters of images? Do these images support the idea or theme that you find in the work? (If so, they may be symbols.)
6. What does *the narrator* say that helps to illustrate this idea?
7. Draft an introduction paragraph to the essay. Remember H. A. T.—hook, address the topic (**brief** summary of novel with author and title, and a thesis).

The picture of a small town often involves images of a simpler, more innocent way of life—neighbors waving to each other, children running along streets with dogs in tow, doors unlocked, lemonade stands and apple pie. But evil does have a way of seeping into life, even the insular ones of small town America. Truman Capote's In Cold Blood, tells the story of one such night when the quiet of a small town in Kansas is broken by murder. Capote's story reveals how conflict can change the very nature of people.

NOTE: Once you have answered the questions, you would still need to organize your thoughts into a coherent essay with a clear thesis. The purpose of these questions is to generate material to go into such an essay; simply recording the answers in sequence does not make a finished paper.