Eleventh Edition

Literature and the Writing Process

Elizabeth McMahan | Robert Funk Susan X. Day | Linda Coleman



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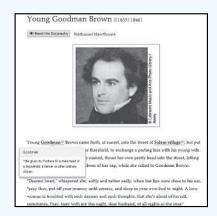
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For our dear friend and co-author Betty McMahan, whose love of literature and exuberant laugh continue to inspire us. This page intentionally left blank

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Preface

T his book grew out of our long-standing interest in the possibilities of integrating the study of literature with the practice of composition. Many of our students have learned to write perceptively and well using literature as their subject matter. Great literature is always thought-provoking, always new. Why not utilize it to sharpen critical thinking and improve writing skills? Toward that end, we have combined an introduction-to-literature anthology with detailed instruction in the writing process.

Our Purpose

Literature and the Writing Process, Eleventh Edition, presents literary selections as materials for students to read, analyze, and write about. Our careful integration of rhetorical instruction with the critical study of literature guides students through the allied processes of analytical reading and argumentative writing. As a result, students learn how to write essays about the major features that are involved in interpreting short stories, poems, and plays.

New to This Edition

As always, we have been guided by the advice of our reviewers in revising this edition. Here is a list of the major additions and changes in the Eleventh Edition:

- New Part And Chapter: Part V: Critical Approaches to Literature begins with a concise survey of the primary systems for interpreting literature and concludes with a **new multi-genre Critical Casebook: Writing about Culture and Identity (Chapter 35).** The casebook contains seven short stories, nine poems, and two plays that deal with issues of race, class, gender, ethnicity, beliefs, and cultural values. The questions for writing and discussion in the casebook encourage students to examine their own thoughts and feelings on these topics.
- *New Feature: MultiModal Projects* supplement and extend the writing ideas in the literary chapters, casebooks, and portfolios. These twenty-three assignments, which appear throughout the text, direct students to read, interpret, analyze, and compose in modes that go beyond text on the page, exploring digital, audio, visual, and creative modes. Students are prompted to engage with words, numbers, images, graphics, animations, music, and more.

XL PREFACE

- New Portfoilo of four stories about "singular" women invites discussions of the ways women are characterized in fiction, encouraging comparisons across time and location.
- *Making Connections prompts* are now available for all the selections in the anthologies, casebooks, and portfolios, inviting synthesis among selections.
- New critical commentaries for works such as Langston Hughes's poems and *The Glass Menagerie* have been added.
- *Updated sections* have been included on reflective and argumentative writing and additional suggestions for doing researched writing, as well as discussion of additional forms, such as the prose poem.
- New works include short stories by Arna Bontemps, Sarah Orne Jewett, James Joyce, Katherine Mansfield, H. H. Munro, Celeste Ng, and Eudora Welty; poems by Richard Blanco, Gregory Djanikian, Amy Lowell, Mina Loy, Edgar Lee Masters, Lisel Mueller, Frank O'Hara, Christina Rossetti, David Shumate, Alfred Lord Tennyson, David Wagoner, William Wordsworth, James Wright, and Mitsuye Yamada; and plays by Hernik Ibsen and Alice Childress.

Our Organization

The book is divided into five main parts:

- **Part I Composing: An Overview** provides a thorough introduction to the recursive composing process as it applies to writing about literature. This part contains individual chapters on prewriting, writing (drafting), writing convincing arguments, and rewriting. Part I also includes a chapter on researched writing, which offers instruction in planning, researching, and documenting a paper with secondary sources, along with an updated description of the MLA Style for citing and crediting these sources.
- Part II Writing About Short Fiction begins with a brief introduction on how to read short stories, followed by five chapters on writing about the individual elements of fiction: structure, imagery and symbolism, point of view, setting and atmosphere, and theme. Each chapter focuses on a story that clearly illustrates the literary technique to be studied. This part also contains a critical casebook on the story "Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?" by Joyce Carol Oates, an anthology of seventeen short stories, and three portfolios of stories: science fiction, singular women, and humor and satire.
- Part III Writing About Poetry begins with a brief chapter on reading poetry, followed by three chapters on writing about key elements in poetry: persona and tone, poetic language, and poetic form. Poems that illustrate the literary concepts under discussion are reprinted within the chapter. This part also contains a casebook on the poetry of Langston Hughes; a color insert that contains reproductions of six paintings with corresponding poems that respond to and comment on the art; an anthology of seventy-eight poems; a group of twelve paired poems for comparison; and three portfolios of poems—about work, war, and humor/satire.
- Part IV Writing About Drama begins with an introductory chapter on how to read a play, followed by two chapters on writing about

issues of structure and character in drama. Each chapter focuses on a particular play, and the chapter on character includes a critical casebook about Amanda in Tennessee Williams's *The Glass Menagerie*. This part also contains an anthology of three classic plays and a portfolio of two humorous and satirical plays.

• Part V Critical Approaches to Literature contains a brief summary of eight major systems for analyzing and interpreting fiction, poetry, and drama—and concludes with a multi-genre casebook for reading and writing about eighteen literary works that explore the themes of culture and identity.

These five parts are supplemented by a Glossary of Literary and Rhetorical Terms.

Student and Professional Writing Samples

These twelve examples of critical writing demonstrate how to analyze and argue about literature:

- The complete composing protocol that a student followed in developing her interpretation of James Joyce's "Eveline," including samples of prewriting, drafting, post-draft outlining, revising, editing, and the final draft (Chapters 1, 2, and 4).
- A student paper illustrating the use of claims, evidence, and reasoning in arguing an interpretation of Dagoberto Gilb's "Love in L.A." (Chapter 3).
- An expanded and documented version of the student paper on "Eveline" (Chapter 5).
- A documented published article on Kate Chopin's depiction of marriage in "Desireé's Baby" (Chapter 5).
- The second and final drafts of a student paper on symbolism in Shirley Jackson's "The Lottery" (Chapter 8).
- A documented student paper comparing "The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas" by Ursula Le Guin with "Speech Sounds" by Octavia Butler (in the Portfolio of Science Fiction Stories, Chapter 14).
- A new personal-reflection essay on persona and tone in "The Nymph's Reply to the Shepherd" by Sir Walter Raleigh (Chapter 18).
- The second and final drafts of a student paper on imagery in John Donne's "A Valediction: Forbidding Mourning" (Chapter 19).
- A documented student paper on form and meaning in Robert Frost's "The Silken Tent" (Chapter 20).
- A published article on the elements of poetic form in Robert Hayden's "Those Winter Sundays" (Chapter 20).
- A student's personal reflection on Anne Sexton's "The Starry Night" (Chapter 22, The Art of Poetry).
- A student paper on the gender conflict in Sophocles's *Antigone* (Chapter 29).

Instructor's Manual

The Instructor's Manual for *Literature and the Writing Process*, 11/e (ISBN 0-13-415109-7), offers myriad teaching suggestions, activities, resources for teaching literature, and guidance on using reading journals. Supporting materials for each reading include an overview and possible responses to connected assignments. The instructor's manual is available online.

Revel

REVEL[™] is Pearson's newest way of delivering our respected content. Fully digital and highly engaging, REVEL offers an immersive learning experience designed for the way today's students read, think, and learn. Enlivening course content with media interactives and assessments, REVEL empowers educators to increase engagement with the course, and to better connect with students.

REVEL[™] for *Literature and the Writing Process* offers an enhanced digital anthology that seamlessly integrates literature and composition into one multi-purpose, flexible online environment. Careful integration of rhetorical instruction with the critical study of literature guides students through the allied processes of analytical reading and argumentative writing. Accompanied by pedagogical apparatus and multimedia resources to facilitate teaching and learning, *Literature and the Writing Process* enables students to enjoy, understand, and learn from imaginative literature.

Our Appreciation

We are grateful to the reviewers whose comments and suggestions helped us craft this Eleventh Edition: Joan Steele Bruckwicki, Tyler Junior College; Jan Czarnecki, Bluefield State College; Adam Floridia, Middlesex Community College; Julie Kraft, Cowley County Community College; Terence McNulty, Middlesex Community College; Wade Skinner, Tyler Junior College.

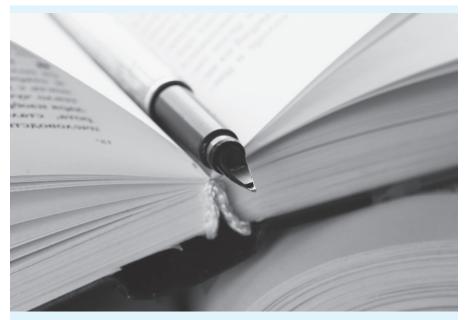
Many thanks to our former editor Joe Terry (VP and Editor-in-Chief of College Foundations); to our development editor, Anne Stameshkin, who gave us invaluable advice and contributions in producing this new edition; to editorial assistant Caitlin Ghegan for all of her help along the way; to our tireless permissions editor, Joseph Croscup; and to our first-rate production team, including our project manager, Denise Phillip Grant; and to the media team (including Julia Pomann and Elizabeth

Bravo) that is working hard to adapt this book for digital, interactive use. Also thanks to our marketing manager, Nick Bolt. To Bill Weber, undying appreciation for his inspiration, support, and

comfort.

Robert Funk Susan X Day Linda S. Coleman This page intentionally left blank

Part I Composing: An Overview



This text serves a dual purpose: to enable you to enjoy, understand, and learn from imaginative literature; and to help you to write clearly, intelligently, and correctly about what you have learned. Our instruction is designed to guide you through the interrelated processes of analytical reading and critical writing. Part I begins with the prewriting process and then shows you how to follow through to the completion of a finished essay about a literary work. In this section we also offer a separate chapter on how to use the elements of argument in writing about literature, and we conclude with detailed instruction on how to incorporate secondary sources into your writing.

The Prewriting Process

Chapter Preview

Your study of writing, as we approach it in this book, will focus on the composing process: prewriting, writing, rewriting, and editing. The first part of the text takes you through each stage, explaining one way of putting together a paper on James Joyce's "Eveline." The following parts, which include more short stories, plus poems and plays, contain further advice for understanding and writing about these various kinds of literature.

We realize, of course, that our chronological explanation of the stages in the writing process is not entirely true to experience; most of us juggle at least two steps at a time when we write. But we have adopted a linear, stepby-step presentation in order to explain and illustrate the key components of the process thoroughly and clearly. By the end of this chapter on the prewriting process, you will be able to

- Define audience awareness.
- Identify the main purposes for writing.
- Explain the key steps in critical reading: *analysis, inference, synthesis, evaluation.*
- Demonstrate four important techniques for discovering ideas: *self-questioning, freewriting, problem solving, clustering.*
- Define the terms theme and thesis.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of a thesis statement.

Reading for Writing

To prepare for your study of the stages of writing an essay about a literary topic, find a comfortable spot and read the following short story.

James Joyce 1882–1941

James Joyce rejected his Irish Catholic heritage and left his homeland at age twenty. Though an expatriate most of his adult life, Joyce wrote almost exclusively about his native Dublin. His first book, *Dubliners* (1914), was a series of sharply drawn vignettes based on his experiences in Ireland, the homeland he later described as "a sow that eats its own farrow." His novel *Ulysses* (1933) was banned for a time in the United States because of its coarse language and frank treatment of sexuality; it is now often ranked as the greatest novel of the twentieth century.

5

Eveline

She sat at the window watching the evening invade the avenue. Her head was leaned against the window curtains and in her nostrils was the odour of dusty cretonne. She was tired.

Few people passed. The man out of the last house passed on his way home; she heard his footsteps clacking along the concrete pavement and afterwards crunching on the cinder path before the new red houses. One time there used to be a field there in which they used to play every evening with other people's children. Then a man from Belfast bought the field and built houses in it—not like their little brown houses but bright brick houses with shining roofs. The children of the avenue used to play together in that field—the Devines, the Waters, the Dunns, little Keogh the cripple, she and her brothers and sisters. Ernest, however, never played: he was too grown up. Her father used often to hunt them in out of the field with his blackthorn stick; but usually little Keogh used to keep nix and call out when he saw her father coming. Still they seemed to have been rather happy then. Her father was not so bad then; and besides, her mother was alive. That was a long time ago; she and her brothers and sisters were all grown up; her mother was dead. Tizzie Dunn was dead, too, and the Waters had gone back to England. Everything changes. Now she was going to go away like the others, to leave her home.

Home! She looked round the room, reviewing all its familiar objects which she had dusted once a week for so many years, wondering where on earth all the dust came from. Perhaps she would never see again those familiar objects from which she had never dreamed of being divided. And yet during all those years she had never found out the name of the priest whose yellowing photograph hung on the wall above the broken harmonium beside the coloured print of the promises made to Blessed Margaret Mary Alacoque. He had been a school friend of her father. Whenever he showed the photograph to a visitor her father used to pass it with a casual word:

"He is in Melbourne now."

She had consented to go away, to leave her home. Was that wise? She tried to weigh each side of the question. In her home anyway she had shelter and food; she had those whom she had known all her life about her. Of course she had to work hard, both in the house and at business. What would they say of her in the Stores when they found out that she had run away with a fellow? Say she was a fool, perhaps; and her place would be filled up by advertisement. Miss Gavan would be glad. She had always had an edge on her, especially whenever there were people listening.

"Miss Hill, don't you see these ladies are waiting?"

"Look lively, Miss Hill, please."

She would not cry many tears at leaving the Stores.

But in her new home, in a distant unknown country, it would not be like that. Then she would be married—she, Eveline. People would treat her with respect then. She would not be treated as her mother had been. Even now, though she was over nineteen, she sometimes felt herself in danger of her father's violence. She knew it was that that had given her the palpitations. When they were growing up he had never gone for her, like he used to go for Harry and Ernest, because she was a girl; but latterly he had begun to threaten her and say what he would do to her only for her dead mother's sake. And now she had nobody to



A late nineteenth-century photo of Fade Street in Dublin, which conveys a sense of the neighborhood where Eveline grew up.

protect her. Ernest was dead and Harry, who was in the church decorating business, was nearly always down somewhere in the country. Besides, the invariable squabble for money on Saturday nights had begun to weary her unspeakably. She always gave her entire wages—seven shillings—and Harry always sent up what he could but the trouble was to get any money from her father. He said she used to squander the money, that she had no head, that he wasn't going to give her his hard-earned money to throw about the streets, and much more, for he was usually fairly bad on Saturday night. In the end he would give her the money and ask her had she any intention of buying Sunday's dinner. Then she had to rush out as quickly as she could and do her marketing, holding her black leather purse tightly in her hand as she elbowed her way through the crowds and returning home late under her load of provisions. She had hard work to keep the house together and to see that the two young children who had been left to her charge went to school regularly and got their meals regularly. It was hard work-a hard life-but now that she was about to leave it she did not find it a wholly undesirable life.

She was about to explore another life with Frank. Frank was very kind, manly, open-hearted. She was to go away with him by the night-boat to be his wife and to live with him in Buenos Ayres where he had a home waiting for her. How well she remembered the first time she had seen him; he was lodging in a house on the main road where she used to visit. It seemed a few weeks ago. He was standing at the gate, his peaked cap pushed back on his head and his hair tumbled

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forward over a face of bronze. Then they had come to know each other. He used to meet her outside the Stores every evening and see her home. He took her to see *The Bohemian Girl* and she felt elated as she sat in an unaccustomed part of the theatre with him. He was awfully fond of music and sang a little. People knew that they were courting and, when he sang about the lass that loves a sailor, she always felt pleasantly confused. He used to call her Poppens out of fun. First of all it had been an excitement for her to have a fellow and then she had begun to like him. He had tales of distant countries. He had started as a deck boy at a pound a month on a ship of the Allan Line going out to Canada. He told her the names of the ships he had been on and the names of the different services. He had sailed through the Straits of Magellan and he told her stories of the terrible Patagonians. He had fallen on his feet in Buenos Ayres, he said, and had come over to the old country just for a holiday. Of course, her father had found out the affair and had forbidden her to have anything to say to him.

"I know these sailor chaps," he said.

One day he had quarrelled with Frank and after that she had to meet her lover secretly.

The evening deepened in the avenue. The white of two letters in her lap grew indistinct. One was to Harry; the other was to her father. Ernest had been her favourite but she liked Harry too. Her father was becoming old lately, she noticed; he would miss her. Sometimes he could be very nice. Not long before, when she had been laid up for a day, he had read her out a ghost story and made toast for her at the fire. Another day, when their mother was alive, they had all gone for a picnic to the Hill of Howth. She remembered her father putting on her mother's bonnet to make the children laugh.

Her time was running out but she continued to sit by the window, leaning her head against the window curtain, inhaling the odour of dusty cretonne. Down far in the avenue she could hear a street organ playing. She knew the air. Strange that it should come that very night to remind her of the promise to her mother, her promise to keep the home together as long as she could. She remembered the last night of her mother's illness; she was again in the close dark room at the other side of the hall and outside she heard a melancholy air of Italy. The organ-player had been ordered to go away and given sixpence. She remembered her father strutting back into the sickroom saying:

"Damned Italians! coming over here!"

As she mused the pitiful vision of her mother's life laid its spell on the very quick of her being—that life of commonplace sacrifices closing in final craziness. She trembled as she heard again her mother's voice saying constantly with foolish insistence:

"Derevaun Seraun! Derevaun Seraun!"¹

She stood up in a sudden impulse of terror. Escape! She must escape! Frank would save her. He would give her life, perhaps love, too. But she wanted to live. Why should she be unhappy? She had a right to happiness. Frank would take her in his arms, fold her in his arms. He would save her.

She stood among the swaying crowd in the station at the North Wall. He held her hand and she knew that he was speaking to her, saying something about the passage over and over again. The station was full of soldiers with brown 15

¹"The end of pleasure is pain!"

baggages. Through the wide doors of the sheds she caught a glimpse of the black mass of the boat, lying in beside the quay wall, with illumined portholes. She answered nothing. She felt her cheek pale and cold and, out of a maze of distress, she prayed to God to direct her, to show her what was her duty. The boat blew a long mournful whistle into the mist. If she went, tomorrow she would be on the sea with Frank, steaming towards Buenos Ayres. This passage had been booked. Could she still draw back after all he had done for her? Her distress awoke a nausea in her body and she kept moving her lips in silent fervent prayer.

A bell clanged upon her heart. She felt him seize her hand: "Come!"

All the seas of the world tumbled about her heart. He was drawing her into them: he would drown her. She gripped with both hands at the iron railing.

"Come!"

No! No! It was impossible. Her hands clutched the iron in frenzy. Amid the seas she sent a cry of anguish.

"Eveline! Evvy!"

He rushed beyond the barrier and called to her to follow. He was shouted at to go on but he still called to her. She set her white face to him, passive, like a helpless animal. Her eyes gave him no sign of love or farewell or recognition.

(1914)

Now that your reading of Joyce's story has given you material to mull over, you should consider some questions that good writers think about as they prepare to write. Granted, experienced writers might go over some of these *prewriting* matters almost unconsciously—and perhaps *as* they write instead of before. But in order to explain how to get the process going for you, we will present these considerations one by one.

Who Are My Readers?

Unless you are writing a journal or a diary for your own satisfaction, your writing always has an *audience*—the person or group of people who will read it. You need to keep this audience in mind as you plan what to say and as you choose the best way to express your ideas.

Analyze the Audience

No doubt you already have considerable audience awareness. You would never write a job application letter using the latest in-group slang, nor would you normally correspond with your dear Aunt Minnie in impersonal formal English. Writing for diverse groups about whom you know little is more difficult than writing for a specific audience whom you know well. In this class, for instance, you will be writing for your fellow students and for your instructor, a mixed group sorted together by a computer registration system. Although they are diverse, they do share some characteristics. For one thing, when you begin to write a paper about "Eveline," you know that your audience has read the story; 25

thus, you need not summarize the plot. Also, the people in your audience are college-educated (or becoming so); therefore, you need not avoid difficult words like *epitome*, *eclectic*, or *protean* if they are the appropriate choices. Other shared qualities will become apparent as you get to know your classmates and your instructor.

Prewriting Exercise: Considering Audience

Compose a brief letter persuading Eveline that she should (or should not) leave Frank. Your argumentative tactics, your attitude, and even your word choice must be affected by what you know about Eveline from reading the story—her essential timidity, her insecurity, her selfdoubt, her capacity for self-deception. Take all this into account as you present your argument for or against leaving Frank.

Then, write briefly to her bullying father explaining to him why his dutiful daughter has deserted him (assuming she has gone).

Finally, write Frank a short letter explaining why Eveline will not be going away with him (assuming she stays in Dublin).

Be prepared to discuss with the class specific ways in which your letters are different when you change your audience. Read at least one other student's letters to see how another writer handled the tasks.

Wby Am I Writing?

Every kind of writing, even a grocery list, has a purpose. You seldom sit down to write without some aim in mind, and this purpose affects your whole approach to writing. The immediate response to the question "Why am I writing?" may be that your teacher or your employer asked you to. But that answer will not help you understand the reasons that make writing worth doing—and worth reading.

Reasons for Writing

Sometimes you may write in order *to express* your own feelings, as in a diary or a love letter. More frequently, though, you will be writing for several other people, and the response you want from these prospective readers will determine your purpose. If, for instance, you want your audience to be amused by your writing (as in an informal essay or friendly letter), your purpose is *to entertain*. If you want your readers to gain some knowledge from your writing (say, how to get to your house from the airport), then you are writing *to inform*. If you want your readers to agree with an opinion or to accept an idea (as in a letter to the editor or an advertisement), then you are writing *to persuade*. Of course, these aims overlap—as do most things in the writing process—but usually one purpose predominates.

Most of your writing in this course, as in real life, will be an argument one way or another. Your purpose is often to convince your reader to agree with the points you are making. Logical ideas set down in clear, interesting writing should prove convincing and keep your readers reading.

Prewriting Exercises: Thinking about Audience and Purpose

In writing the three letters to various characters, you have already noticed how audience and purpose can change the way you think and write about "Eveline." After studying the four writing suggestions that follow, reread the story. You may discover that you have more ideas and feelings about it than you first imagined. Thinking about prospective readers and determining your purpose will help you understand your own views and reactions better.

- 1. If your purpose is to express your personal response:
- Write down your feelings about Eveline in a journal entry or in a brief note to a close friend. Do you sympathize with Eveline? Pity her? Does she irritate you or make you angry? Be as forthright as you can.
- 2. If your purpose is to inform someone else:

Write a brief summary (less than one hundred words) of "Eveline" for a fellow student who wants to know if the story is worth reading. Write a slightly longer summary for your instructor (or someone else who has read the story) who wants to know if you have grasped its important points.

Which summary was easier to write? What purposes besides providing information were involved in each summary?

- 3. If your purpose is *to entertain* yourself or your readers: How would you rewrite the ending of "Eveline" to make it more positive or romantic—to make it appeal to a wider audience? Would such an ending be consistent with the earlier parts of the story? Would it be true to human experience?
- 4. If your purpose is *to persuade* your readers: The author tells us that Eveline held two letters in her lap, but we do not know their contents. Write your version of one of them. Try to construe from evidence in the story what Eveline would have said to convince her father or her brother that she had good reasons for going away with Frank. How would she persuade them to forgive her? Consider also what other purposes Eveline would try to achieve in each of these letters.

What Ideas Should I Use?

Understanding literature involves learning what questions to ask yourself as you read. To deepen your comprehension and develop ideas for writing, you need to examine the work carefully and think critically about its component parts.

Reading and Thinking Critically

Critical reading and thinking involves several overlapping procedures: analysis, inference, synthesis, and evaluation. The word *critical* does not mean "disapproving" or "faultfinding" in this context; it means thorough, thoughtful, inquisitive, and logically demanding. As a critical reader you want to discover meanings and relationships that you might otherwise miss in uncritical, superficial reading.

- *Analysis* involves examining the parts or elements of a work, the better to understand it.
- *Inference* entails drawing conclusions about a work based on your analysis. When you infer, you explore the implications of various elements (such as plot, characterization, structure, tone) and interpret their meaning.
- *Synthesis* is the process of putting your analysis and inferences together into a new, more informed understanding of the work. You create this new understanding by making connections, identifying patterns, and drawing conclusions.
- *Evaluation* means defending the judgments you have made about a work's meaning, significance, or quality.

Chapters 6, 17, and 28—"How Do I Read Short Fiction?" "How Do I Read Poetry?" and "How Do I Read a Play?"—provide specific suggestions and questions to guide you in analyzing, making inferences, synthesizing, and evaluating literary works. Here are some suggestions and questions from those chapters, along with their critical reading basis.

Example of Questions Inviting Analysis

What is the central conflict of the play? Does the play contain any secondary conflicts (subplots)? How do they relate to the main conflict?

Example of Questions That Require Inferences

Who is the main character? Does this person's character change during the course of the story? Do you feel sympathetic toward the main character? What sort of person is she or he?

Example of Questions Involving Synthesis

What is the theme (the central idea) of this poem? Can you state it in a single sentence?

Example of Evaluation Questions

Which of the poems conveys the horrors of war most effectively? Why?

Discovering and Developing Ideas

You read critically to derive meaning from a work, and you continue to think critically as you go about discovering ideas to write about. This discovery process, called *invention*, is more effective if you employ one of the following techniques designed to help you analyze literary works and generate ideas about them.