

A Midsummer Night's Dream Character Analysis Essay

1 — Task

Your assignment is to write a character analysis of a major character in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Once you have chosen a character to analyse, choose three adjectives that describe that character. Analyse the character traits based on the play so far and collect quotes. These adjectives, or character traits, as well as your quotes, will be the basis of your five/seven-paragraph essay.

2 — Use the PIE Essay Structure:

Remember that when you make a point, you need to support it with a quotation and then explain exactly how the quotation highlights what you want to show. This is also known as the PIE essay structure (Point — Illustration — Explanation) and can be used for any type of essay. The outline below has adapted the PIE essay structure for character analysis essays:

Introduction (1 paragraph)	A	Attention Grabber.
	B	Link Attention Grabber to Essay Topic, character and novel.
	C	Thesis Statement about your character. Remember to use three adjectives .
Body 1 (1-2 paragraphs)	P	Topic Sentence about first adjective / character trait .
	I	Quote used to illustrate point / argument
	E	Explanation & Analysis (reinforces topic sentence, thesis statement)
Body 2 (1-2 paragraphs)	P	Topic Sentence about second adjective / character trait .
	I	Quote used to illustrate point / argument
	E	Explanation & Analysis (reinforces topic sentence, thesis statement)
Body 3 (1-2 paragraphs)	P	Topic Sentence about third adjective / character trait .
	I	Quote used to illustrate point / argument
	E	Explanation & Analysis (reinforces topic sentence, thesis statement)
Conclusion (1 paragraph)	A	Summary of central arguments and observations about the character.
	B	Final argument(s) & observations about the character.
	C	Thought-provoking final statement.

3 — Your Thesis Statement:

A thesis statement is a sentence or two that tells the reader what the rest of the essay is about. Good thesis statements do not simply announce a topic; they say something about the topic, and they provide the framework for your paper. Never start a thesis with, "In this paper I will discuss...".

A thesis statement makes a promise to the reader about the scope, purpose, and direction of the paper. It summarizes the conclusion that the writer has reached about the topic.

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For example: *Bottom is the central figure in the subplot involving the craftsmen's production of the Pyramus and Thisbe story, and he dominates his fellow actors with an extraordinary belief in his own abilities as well as his comical incompetence. The humour surrounding Bottom often stems from the fact that he is totally unaware of his own ridiculousness; his speeches are overdramatic and self-aggrandizing, and he seems to believe that everyone takes him as seriously as he does himself.*

4 — Detailed Outline:

Introduction

The introduction should start with an attention grabber about the character and/or play. It should then lead to your thesis statement. Be sure you have introduced *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (as a Shakespearean comedy) and the character you will be analysing, highlighting what makes your chosen character particularly interesting for analysis.

The Body Paragraphs

The topic sentence for each body paragraph includes one character trait you have used in your thesis statement to describe your character. For example,

Bottom's foolish sense of self-importance reaches its pinnacle after Puck transforms Bottom's head into that of an ass. When Titania, whose eyes have been anointed with a love potion, falls in love with the now ass-headed Bottom, he believes that the devotion of the beautiful, magical fairy queen is nothing out of the ordinary and that all of the trappings of her affection, including having servants attend him, are his proper due. Bottom's unawareness of his asinine transformation parallels his inability to perceive the absurdity of the idea that Titania could fall in love with him.

As above, follow the topic sentence with evidence from the novel: examples from the story that support your topic sentence, and at least one direct quotation from the novel in each body paragraph. Next, explain how your examples support your topic sentence, and conclude each body paragraph with a summarizing “clincher” sentence to wrap-up your ideas.

Conclusion

Restate your thesis statement and add some final thoughts about your character and/or the play. Leave the reader with a thought-provoking final statement. **For example:**

In truth, even without the donkey's head Bottom is a bit of an ass; he is a terrible actor and suffers from overbearing, controlling and narcissistic delusions of grandeur. Yet at heart he is a good man who only wants the best for the 'play' and his fellow troupe members.

CHARACTER ANALYSIS: ASSESSMENT & CRITERIA

Summary of Descriptors	Points
Introduction - The introduction introduces the text, the character analysed and what makes the chosen character particularly interesting for analysis. - The writer's connection to the character is clear. - The thesis statement is strong, focuses on key character traits based on previous reading and research, and the introduction as a whole is convincing.	10
Character Analysis - The character is described and analysed in detail. - Analysis shows excellent understanding of the character's personality and motivations. - Body paragraphs include relevant details that fully explain why each event or incident significantly impacts the character - Relevant quotations are used in each body paragraph, and they are well integrated into the analysis.	10
Conclusion - Conclusion convincingly summarizes central arguments and observations about the character. - Conclusion restates and reassesses the thesis statement. - Includes final argument(s) & observations about the character. - The final statement is thought-provoking and convincing.	10
Language and Vocabulary - The writing is free of misspellings and other avoidable errors. - Sentences are punctuated correctly, and the piece is free of fragments and run-ons. - Standard English usage and the appropriate register is employed. - The essay uses strong words, transitional phrases, complex sentences, and <i>academic</i> wording, including the use of literary terms where necessary.	10
Layout and Formatting - The essay is formatted according to the P.I.E. essay criteria and guidelines. - Uses a formal font (e.g. Times New Roman, Helvetica, Arial) size 12pt. - Double-spaced final draft. - Margin of 2 - 3 cm on both left and right. - The essay has been given a proper title. - The word limit for your continuation is 500 - 800 words.	5
Total score / Percentage / Final Grade:	

Grading

The following grade boundaries are used in all subjects at SIS College:

Percentage	Grade
92 - 100 %	6
84 - 91 %	5-6
76 - 83 %	5
68 - 75 %	4-5
60 - 67 %	4
50 - 59 %	3-4
40 - 49 %	3
30 - 39 %	2-3
20 - 29 %	2
10 - 19 %	1-2
0 - 9 %	1

- This scale will be applied to all assessment practices.
- This scale is **not** subject to change.
- Each assessment will use its own set of criteria as set forth by the teacher and as communicated **at least one week in advance** of the due date.