

## Using the "SHIFT" Method of Literary Analysis

<b>S</b> ubject	What topic or idea is the text's focus? You should be able to sum this up in a word or sentence.
<b>H</b> istorical Context	The political, social, cultural, and economic setting for a particular idea, event, or text. What is the historical climate either in the setting of the piece or at the time in which the author lives?
<b>I</b> magery/Diction	Identify word choice, images and sensory details that are loaded with connotation, associations, or emotional impact. What do I see, hear, taste, smell, or feel? What effect is the author trying to convey with these images and word choices?
<b>F</b> igurative Language	A word or phrase that departs from everyday literal language for the sake of comparison, emphasis, clarity, or freshness. Identify metaphor and simile, hyperbole and understatement, puns, personification, and analyze how this manipulation of language affects the tone and them of the piece.
<b>T</b> one	This is the attitude of the author (or narrator/speaker) toward the subject of the text. How does the author's use of diction, imagery, and figurative language illustrate that attitude?
<b>T</b> heme	This concerns the overall meaning or message of the text. The insight, both specific and universal, that the author has to offer his or her audience about life itself and the overall effect of the text. The theme is the controlling idea of the piece. How does the author's attitude towards the subject convey theme?