

## Literary Analysis Essay Prompt

Motifs are the breadcrumbs that reveal greater themes in a novel. Like a good detective, you have been using your motif tracker to follow the clues and trace different motifs' developing significance across the novel. Now, you will continue your detective work to analyze how Adichie employs one or two motifs to convey a theme or a greater message.

Your task is to pick one or two motifs from your motif tracker and to write a five-paragraph literary analysis about how one motif, or a combination of two motifs, develops a theme in *Purple Hibiscus*.

### Criteria for Success:

- Include an introduction paragraph with a thesis statement that argues how one or two motifs develop a theme
- Include three body paragraphs that trace the evolution of one or two motifs across the novel.
- Use evidence across the text to show the evolution of the motif(s)
- Use MLA citation for page numbers
- Include a conclusion paragraph
- Use an appropriate tone and precise language

## Literary Analysis Writing Rubric 9–12

	Fully Meets	Mostly Meets	Partially Meets	Does Not Yet Meet
<b>Thesis &amp; Introduction</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Introduction draws the reader in with an engaging hook</li> <li>- Introduction builds up to the thesis with relevant, connected ideas</li> <li>- Complex and original thesis statement</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Introduction sets up thesis statement with relevant ideas and information</li> <li>- Thesis includes the topic and the writer's interpretation of the topic</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Introduction includes information and ideas related to the thesis</li> <li>- Part of the introduction may seem unrelated/disconnected from the thesis</li> <li>- Thesis contains an opinion and reasoning</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Introduction contains irrelevant information</li> <li>- Introduction does not clearly state the thesis</li> <li>- Thesis restates facts and cannot be argued</li> </ul>
<b>Depth of Evidence &amp; Commentary</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Thoughtful, original selection of quotes that support the main idea of each paragraph</li> <li>- Integrates and explains the significance of the evidence, including the author's use of language in detailed, perceptive commentary that extends beyond what was discussed in class</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Introduces and explains all quotes</li> <li>- Quotes are sometimes paraphrased rather than analyzed, but most of each paragraph is analysis (vs. plot summary)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Uses some good evidence, but may rely heavily on summarizing</li> <li>- Does not explain the significance of quotes completely</li> <li>- Quotes may not clearly support the thesis</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Does not yet have enough evidence to support the thesis</li> <li>- Does not yet adequately introduce or explain evidence</li> <li>- Relies on plot summary</li> <li>- Does not reveal comprehension of text</li> </ul>
<b>Organization &amp; Flow</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Purpose is sharply defined throughout the essay</li> <li>- Each paragraph states a complex main idea that is linked to the thesis (topic sentences)</li> <li>- Conclusion extends ideas with a new twist or question (So what?)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Purpose is clear throughout the essay</li> <li>- Each paragraph has a topic sentence linked to the thesis</li> <li>- Conclusion restates and supports the thesis</li> <li>- Transitions are frequently used to help connect ideas within and between paragraphs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Purpose is not always evident throughout the essay</li> <li>- The main idea of some paragraphs is unclear</li> <li>- If present, conclusion does not reflect the content of the essay or support the thesis</li> <li>- Transitions are sometimes used to help connect ideas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Purpose of the essay is unclear</li> <li>- Many ideas are not sufficiently developed or clearly linked to the thesis</li> <li>- Disjointed and illogical organization</li> <li>- Conclusion is not present or is off topic</li> </ul>

	- Transitions are consistently used to help connect ideas within and between paragraphs		within and between paragraphs	- Transitions are unclear or missing
<b>Language &amp; Style</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Vocabulary, sentence structure, and style engage the reader</li> <li>- Uses concise, precise, and varied word choice</li> <li>- Quotes are smoothly embedded into the writing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Clear vocabulary allows the reader to follow the essay without difficulty</li> <li>- Some instances of vague or informal language</li> <li>- Quotes are embedded properly</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Some sentences or word choices confuse or mislead the reader</li> <li>- Language is conversational, not academic</li> <li>- Some errors in embedding quotations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Confusing sentence or word choice does not allow the reader to understand the essay</li> <li>- Language is inappropriate for the assignment</li> <li>- Quotes are dropped in and not embedded</li> </ul>
<b>Grammar &amp; Mechanics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No spelling or grammar errors</li> <li>- Analysis uses the literary present tense</li> <li>- Correct quote citations and document formatting</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A few minor errors in spelling/usage</li> <li>- Minor error in formatting</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Some significant errors in spelling/usage</li> <li>- Formatting errors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Numerous errors distract the reader</li> <li>- Formatting is nonexistent</li> </ul>