

ALOE: A LESSON ON ENGLISH

Questions and Essay Topics for a Work of Fiction

Winter 2012. Vol 6, #4

All works of fiction, whether a novel, a short story, a novelette, a screenplay, a classic play or a narrative poem, have some elements in common, and can be analyzed as follows:

1. *Characters*
2. *Plot (events)*
3. *Setting (time and place)*
4. *Mood and tone*
5. *Theme*
6. *Point-of-view*

Here are some standard questions and essay topics you can use for any work of fiction.

Questions Write a 2-3 sentence answer

1. Who is the main character (the protagonist), the person who is in the center of the action?
2. Name three secondary characters (important characters besides the protagonist). How do they relate to the protagonist?
3. What is the setting of the story?
Time:
Place:
4. What kinds of words are used to describe the protagonist? (examples are brave, young, wise, impulsive, etc.)
5. When was the story written?
6. How many works of fiction has the author written?
7. How long is the story? (number of pages, words, or whatever)
8. Can you imagine this story in your home country? What would be different?
9. What is the most interesting event in the story? (what happened that you really paid attention to?)
10. Why did the author write this story?



Time: 2011; Place: Charles Bridge, Prague



Protagonist: Santa Klaus

ALOE newsletter
International Leadership Institute
Sara Tusek, Editor
Florida and Prague
Email: publications@ili.cc

www.ili.cc

ALOE

Questions and Essay Topics for a Work of Fiction

From p. 1

Essay topics. Write a short (250-word) essay

1. How does the author get you (the reader) interested in the story?
2. Do you like the protagonist? Why or why not?
3. Do the characters change during the story? If so, how?
4. Describe the plot of the story. Focus on the actions that happen, and the results.
5. What is the turning point of the story? (the turning point is the situation that marks a choice or event that determines the rest of the story. Examples: a person decides to get married, commits a crime, goes to war, or some similar important event or decision.)
6. What is the theme of the story? (the theme is the main idea that the author is trying to communicate).
7. What is the mood of the story? (The mood is how the reader feels about the story. It is the emotional reaction of the reader. Examples are happy, sad, confused, angry, etc.)
8. What is the tone of the story? (The tone is the author's emotional attitude. Examples include nostalgic, admiring, regretful, etc.)
9. Can you find a connection between the author's life and the story?
10. Would you recommend this book to a friend? Why or why not?

Sara Tusek, with more than 26 years of experience in education, directs the American English Language Institute. Currently based in Prague, Czech Republic, the Institute provides courses in English for academic purposes. www.ili.cc



"A Lesson on English" is a series of short lessons created for people who want to become fluent in conversational English. The lessons are practical and useful for students learning English in a traditional classroom setting or on their own.

Visit our blog:
<http://englishinprague.blogspot.com/>

**International Leadership Institute,
providing leadership and career
development programs, services and
publications in the U.S. and Europe
since 1985**

ILI Publications

Newsletters at www.ili.cc:

Leaders to Follow
Servant Leaders
Careers
continuous conversion
ALOE: A Lesson on English

Blogs:

<http://jbt-yournextjob.blogspot.com/>
<http://englishinprague.blogspot.com/>
<http://writingwisdom.blogspot.com/>
<http://praguepies.blogspot.com/>

Books at www.ili.cc:

21st Century Jobs
*Three Things You can't Do in
Prague*
Three Things that Last Forever