

Literary Analysis

CHICAGO

Compare and contrast the poem "Chicago" by Carl Sandburg and *The Great Fire* by Jim Murphy. Discuss how the urban setting is portrayed in each text. Specifically focus on the impact the text structure has on its meaning.

Use the resources provided to help you plan your writing.

Use the checklist below to help you during the writing process.

CHECKLIST:

- Did I clearly explain the topic within the introduction?
- Did I analyze the symbolism, imagery, figurative language, tone and theme of both pieces of literature?
- Do I clearly describe the similarities and differences between the texts?
- Does my conclusion provide a sense of closure (restated thesis)?
- Did I organize my writing using a variety of transitional words?
- Did I properly cite textual evidence to support my findings?
Ex: *Do I clearly state from which text / author the information came?*
- Do I use formal English (no slang)?
- Did I use the rubric to self-edit my writing?

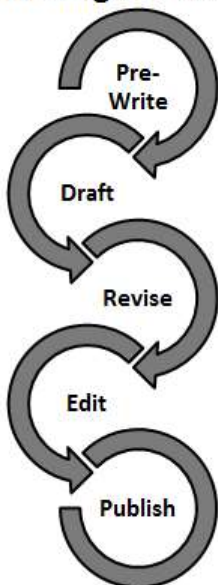


Name: _____
 Date: _____
 Hour: _____



Points Possible	Expectations	Points Earned
40	<p align="center"><u>IDEAS</u></p> <input type="checkbox"/> I communicated the information, ideas, and concepts thoroughly. <input type="checkbox"/> I included facts, definitions, specific details, quotations, graphics, and/or multi-media components to better explain the topic. <input type="checkbox"/> I included only relevant content; I have not included unnecessary details.	
10	<p align="center"><u>ORGANIZATION</u></p> <input type="checkbox"/> Within the introduction, I explain the topic and preview what is to follow. <input type="checkbox"/> My conclusion follows from and supports the information presented. <input type="checkbox"/> I logically organized ideas, concepts, and information into broader categories. (Examples: compare/contrast, sequence, classification, cause/effect) <input type="checkbox"/> I formatted my writing using headings and subheadings.	
10	<p align="center"><u>VOICE</u></p> <input type="checkbox"/> I used only formal English (no slang). <input type="checkbox"/> I did not include personal opinion or bias.	
10	<p align="center"><u>WORD CHOICE</u></p> <input type="checkbox"/> I used a variety of transition words/phrases to create cohesion & clarify the relationships among ideas and concepts. <input type="checkbox"/> I used precise words, relevant descriptive details, and appropriate vocabulary.	
10	<p align="center"><u>SENTENCE FLUENCY</u></p> <input type="checkbox"/> My sentences begin in different ways and vary in length and structure. <input type="checkbox"/> I use correct shifts in verb tenses, voice, and mood.	
10	<p align="center"><u>CONVENTIONS</u></p> <input type="checkbox"/> I used correct capitalization, punctuation, grammar, and spelling.	
10	<p align="center"><u>PRESENTATION</u></p> <input type="checkbox"/> The presentation of the text enhances the message.	

Writing Process



Editing	✓	Writing Conference				
<p>Self-Edit: I used the rubric to edit my own writing.</p>		<p>Feedback:</p>				
<p>Peer-Edit: _____ used the rubric to edit my own writing.</p>						
		<table border="1"> <tr> <th colspan="2">Revision Decision</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Yes</td> <td>No</td> </tr> </table>	Revision Decision		Yes	No
Revision Decision						
Yes	No					

Excerpt From Jim Murphy's *The Great Fire*:

Chapter 1: A City Ready to Burn

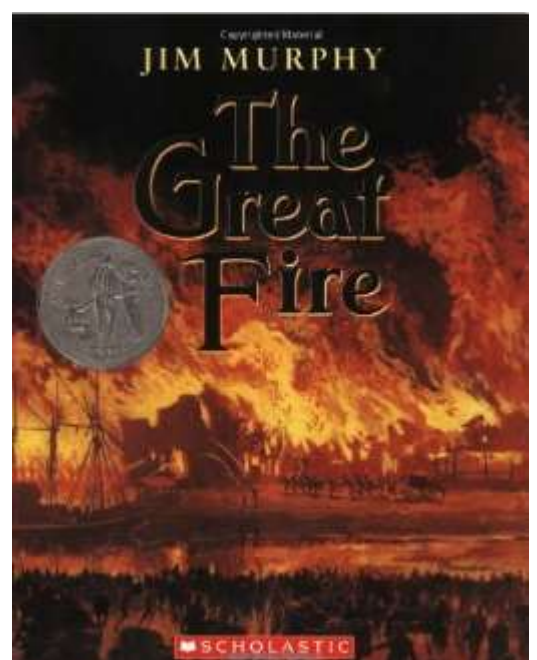


Chicago in 1871 was a city ready to burn. The city boasted having 59,500 buildings, many of them—such as the Courthouse and the Tribune Building—large and ornately decorated. The trouble was that about two-thirds of all these structures were made entirely of wood. Many of the remaining buildings (even the ones proclaimed to be “fireproof”) looked solid, but were actually jerrybuilt affairs; the stone or brick exteriors hid wooden frames and floors, all topped with highly flammable tar or shingle roofs. It was also a common practice to disguise wood as another kind of building material. The fancy exterior decorations on just about every building were carved from wood, then painted to look like stone or marble.

Most churches had steeples that appeared to be solid from the street, but a closer inspection would reveal a wooden framework covered with cleverly painted copper or tin.

The situation was worst in the middle-class and poorer districts. Lot sizes were small, and owners usually filled them up with cottages, barns, sheds, and outhouses—all made of fast-burning wood, naturally. Because both Patrick and Catherine O’Leary worked, they were able to put a large addition on their cottage despite a lot size of just 25 by 100 feet. Interspersed in these residential areas were a variety of businesses—paint factories, lumberyards, distilleries, gasworks, mills, furniture manufacturers, warehouses, and coal distributors.

Wealthier districts were by no means free of fire hazards. Stately stone and brick homes had wood interiors, and stood side by side with smaller wood-frame houses. Wooden stables and other storage buildings were common, and trees lined the streets and filled the yards.



Chicago

By: Carl Sandburg



Hog Butcher for the World,
Tool Maker, Stacker of Wheat,
Player with Railroads and the Nation's Freight Handler;
Stormy, husky, brawling,
City of the Big Shoulders:

They tell me you are wicked and I believe them, for I have seen your painted women
under the gas lamps luring the farm boys.
And they tell me you are crooked and I answer: Yes, it is true I have seen the gunman
kill and go free to kill again.
And they tell me you are brutal and my reply is: On the faces of women and children I
have seen the marks of wanton hunger.
And having answered so I turn once more to those who sneer at this my city, and I give
them back the sneer and say to them:
Come and show me another city with lifted head singing so proud to be alive and
coarse and strong and cunning.
Flinging magnetic curses amid the toil of piling job on job, here is a tall bold slugger
set vivid against the little soft cities;
Fierce as a dog with tongue lapping for action, cunning as a savage pitted against the
wilderness,
Bareheaded,
Shoveling,
Wrecking,
Planning,
Building, breaking, rebuilding,
Under the smoke, dust all over his mouth, laughing with white teeth,
Under the terrible burden of destiny laughing as a young man laughs,
Laughing even as an ignorant fighter laughs who has never lost a battle,
Bragging and laughing that under his wrist is the pulse, and under his ribs the heart of
the people,
Laughing!
Laughing the stormy, husky, brawling laughter of Youth, half-naked, sweating, proud
to be Hog Butcher, Tool Maker, Stacker of Wheat, Player with Railroads and Freight
Handler to the Nation.

SIFT

Method For Analyzing Literature

S – Symbolism

An object, person, or place that has meaning within itself, but stands for something else in the context of the story.

I – Imagery

When the descriptive language used enables the reader to imagine the image clearly.

F- Figurative Language

Assonance, Alliteration, Similes, Metaphors, Personification, Hyperbole, Puns, Idioms, Repetition, Rhyme, & Onomatopoeia

T- Tone & Theme

Tone is the quality of something (an act or a piece of writing) that reveals the attitudes and presuppositions of the author. Theme is the unifying idea that is a recurrent element.

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COMPARISON

Directions: Compare and contrast the two texts, focusing on the results of your literacy analysis.

The Great Fire by Jim Murphy

"Chicago" by Carl Sandburg

SIFT

Symbolism

Imagery

Figurative Language

Tone / Theme

I can compare and contrast the literary elements of texts.