

7.3 Novel Theme Planning - Character Transformation

Choose the strongest character(s) that provides the strongest evidence to prove your thesis. Here is a quick guide that will help you plan your response to most essay topics. Focus on how the character(s) transform(s), relative to the essay topic.

Introductory Paragraph: Introduce	
Introduce the topic. Use a quotation from the novel or a brief anecdote that is related to the topic, that captures the reader's attention.	
Introduce the novel and character you will discuss. Include the author's name and the character's name.	
In a single thesis statement, answer the assigned question so it is clear what you will prove in your essay, and include a "because" or "but" clause. Your thesis must reflect the theme you developed in the six-word theme statement activity.	
Body Paragraph 1: Prior to Transformation	
State the topic sentence. Be sure it relates to the thesis statement and clearly focuses on the character prior to transformation.	

Introduce the character, and explain that character's role in the novel.	
Describe the character at the beginning of the story, before he or she transforms.	
Develop specific, supporting evidence from the novel (quotations), always showing how the evidence contributes to your topic and proves your thesis.	
Conclude, connecting your topic to the thesis, and transition to the next body paragraph.	

Body Paragraph 2: Cause of Transformation	
State the topic sentence. Be sure it relates to the thesis statement and clearly focuses on the cause of the character's transformation.	
Explain the circumstances that cause the character's transformation to begin. Describe how the character initially reacts.	
Develop specific, supporting evidence from the novel (quotations) that show the cause of transformation, always showing	

how the evidence proves the thesis.	
Conclude, connecting your topic to the thesis, and transition to the next body paragraph.	
Body Paragraph 3: During Transformation	
State the topic sentence. Be sure it relates to the thesis statement and clearly focuses on the character during the process of transformation.	
Describe how the character is changing as seen in key moments in the text. Support your ideas with specific evidence (quotations), always showing how the evidence proves the thesis.	
Consider the way in which the character has to make a choice between an old and new way of thinking or behaving.	
Conclude, connecting your topic to the thesis, and transition to the next body paragraph.	

Body Paragraph 4: After Transformation

State the topic sentence. Be sure it relates to the thesis statement and clearly focuses on the character **after** transformation.

Describe how the character has changed. Explain the outcome of the transformation—who the character “is” at the end of the text.

How does this transformation process affect those around him or her?

Why does his or her transformation matter?

Support your ideas with specific evidence from the text (quotations) that the character has transformed in an important way.

Conclude, connecting your topic to the thesis, and transition to the concluding paragraph.

Concluding Paragraph: Conclude	
Restate your thesis statement in different words, confirming your thesis has been proven.	
Reconnect with your introductory paragraph: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How has the character's transformation illuminated the topic? • How does the topic relate to people in society? 	
Include final words to leave the reader thinking: a quotation, an anecdote, or a strong statement or question.	

If you would like feedback on your planning, please email it as an attachment to your teacher.