

## What? So What? Now What? Guide to Understanding Theme/Purpose of Texts

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| <b>What?</b>    | <p>In this category, you need to show your attention to the ideas and details of this created text.</p> <p>You will choose examples that are particularly significant to the main idea(s) the text creator develops here, but this is also your time to explore, question and understand the aspects of the text you are physically viewing (whether it is poetry, a novel, visual images, film or otherwise) .</p> <p>Do not simply summarize what you see. Ask yourself questions about why the text unfolds or appears as it does. Consider the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• In your opinion, what is the text creator’s purpose behind creating this text?<br/><br/><i>(You can apply this to an entire text, or a section of a text when dealing with bigger texts, like plays, novels, graphic novels, or film)</i></li><li>• What is this text <i>really</i> about?<br/><i>(What is really going on in the text ‘under the surface’?)</i></li><li>• What elements or effects specific to this text support the main purpose behind the text? <i>(Visual effects? Figures of speech? Other effects?)</i></li></ul> |
| <b>So What?</b> | <p>Connect personally to the main idea(s) of the text. Explore the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• How has this created text affected you? If you cannot relate using an experience from your life (similar feelings or emotions you’ve experienced or even similar goals), compare this section to another text you have studied.<br/><br/><i>(Start with thoughts or memories it triggered, and go through your own experiences or experiences of people you know. You can apply this to an entire text, or a section of a text when dealing with bigger texts like plays, novels, graphic novels or film)</i></li></ul> <p>The purpose of making this connection is to have you consider and connect to another perspective. It is another way to interpret and attempt to</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |

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|                             | <p>understand the ideas at the heart of the image and the influence those ideas can have on your life.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <p><b>Now<br/>What?</b></p> | <p>Look beyond this section of the text and your own experience. Consider how the text creator's ideas are relevant on a universal level. (<i>Universal means "applying to all"</i>).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In what ways do you see the author's ideas in world issues today?<br/>(<i>Where do you see these ideas mentioned or unfolding in the world around us? How are they occurring? When? Why?</i>)</li> <li>• Are the issues important, not only to the text creator and to you personally, but to all people? If so, in what way are they important?</li> </ul> |