**Literary Analysis: O.P.C.**

Below are the steps for analyzing any text. If you follow these steps thoroughly, you will have no problem finding key elements, describing their significance, and coming up with thesis statements.

**Step 1: Make Observations**

Go through the text and mark anything you notice and see as significant. This could be literary devices, punctuation, connections you make with yourself, emotions you have when you read the text-anything. What is important is that you have a lot of observations.

**Step 2: Find Patterns**

Once you have gone through your text a number of times and marked up things that you feel are important, go through a find patterns. How do these ideas link up? Is there a common umbrella that some of them fit under? Put your observations into categories.

**Step 3: Draw Conclusions**

Now that you have picked apart the text, ask yourself “What is this text trying to tell me?” Remember, the answer should not be a literal thing, but an abstract or complex *idea.* These concepts are the themes of the piece.

Now when it comes to writing the analysis of your quotes in your body paragraphs, you will notice that you have already done the work! Just work backwards and use your observations and patterns and talk about how those things on the page led you to the theme of the text. Be specific and think creatively.