

Interpretation Ladder

Build up your interpretation step by step!

Step 7: Offer alternatives

'Alternatively, it might suggest...' this allows you to explore contrasting interpretations.



Step 6: Add layers

Use 'This could also...' to explore multiple possibilities.



Step 5: Acknowledge ambiguities

Highlight how interpretations can vary depending on perspective.



Step 4: Use tentative language

Use phrases like 'It could be argued that...', 'Perhaps the author intends...', 'This may suggest...'



Step 3: Context

How might historical, cultural, or social context impact this interpretation?



Step 2: Infer meaning

What does this suggest or reveal? Link to themes, character motivations, or the writer's purpose.



Step 1: Evidence first

Start with evidence from the text.



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