Literary Analysis

Some things to consider about how to create well written literary analyses:


2. Your literary analysis should answer—in detail—at least five of the following questions about the novel:
   
   a. Identify a scene that interests you. What is so interesting about this scene? Does it offer some insight into a theme, character, or part of the plot you didn’t understanding before this scene? Could you relate it to one specific character or theme to analyze the significance?
   
   b. Identify a character that interests you. What about this character is so interesting to you specifically? Can you yourself wanting this character to become a better or worse person throughout the course of the novel? Is there something specific about this person (personality, physical appearance, emotional problems) you find yourself hoping will get better? Could you attempt to analyze the inner motivations of this character based on the information you’ve been provided about them in the book?
   
   c. If you could ask the author a question about this story, what question would you ask? Does it relate to something that seems unfinished in the novel (character, plot, theme)? Do you find yourself wishing to know more about something in the novel (character’s background, plot, theme significance)?
   
   d. How does this story relate to “real life” –yours or others? Is it realistic? Does it portray the possibility that someone, somewhere might live a life just like this? Could the themes in the novel offer some insight into potential problems experienced by people in real life?
   
   e. What “reward” did you get from reading this story? Was there something you noticed as being a character flaw you find yourself guilty of as well? Could you tie in how a specific theme in the book might affect your?
   
   f. If a classmate were to ask you, “Should I read this story?” how would you answer? Why? Be specific about the overall qualities the story offered (good or bad): was the plot well developed, was it easy to read, was the meaning behind the surface easy to understand, are lessons learned as a result of reading this novel? How can characters in this book provide some insight into reasons family members or friends have issues they have?