

What is literary analysis paper?

- A literary analysis paper is a type of essay that is meant to provide **argumentative analysis** of a specific literary work. When you are assigned this essay type, you are expected to **critically examine an article, book, play or novel** in terms of interaction between **characters, writing style and tone, literary devices**, etc. depending on the essay prompt and more detailed instructions.



Common literary analysis essay prompts

- genre of the assigned literary work (or type);
- character analysis;
- detailed and comprehensive analysis of the plot and the main aspects/ ideas;
- investigation of the central theme;
- appeal to literary devices in the analyzed work (if any).



The writing process of literary analysis

- Concentrate on the topic. 切题
- Gather supporting evidence. 小说文本作为支撑材料
- Devise an outline. 写作大纲
- Formulate your thesis statement. 论点
- Switch over to the very writing and revision process afterwards. 开始写作



Basic Structure of literary analysis paper

1. Introduction

Background info (if necessary)

Argument/Claim

2. Analysis

subpoints+supporting evidences (**specific textual details**)

3. Conclusion

Reemphasis of your argument: extension of your position

(**Avoid repeating your argument word for word**)

Characterize the relationship that exists between Uncle Jewirr and Salva by drawing on specific details from the novel, A Long Walk to Water.

In the book A Long Walk to Water, Salva's uncle, Jewirr is one of the most important characters who brought hope to Salva. It's easy to see that the relationship between the two characters is not so simple as relative, but also some kind of spiritual pillar of Salva in the war. In this essay, we will discuss about what was the relationship between the two characters and how did the relationship exists.

First of all, I would mention about the relationship as relatives and how it worked. On the way to the refugee camp, uncle is his only relative in a sense, for he can't even find his parents. So, as an uncle, Jewirr try to keep his nephew Salva as comfortable as possible. In chapter 6, uncle Jewirr "shot a young antelope" for Slava and thr group, and while the group was about to cross the Nile again from the fishing community, Uncle Jewirr gave his food to Salva, a sugar cane which Uncle got from the fisherman. Besides, uncle was trying to protect Salva too. From the linguistic description of uncle in chapter 7 (when Salva's friend Marial died because of lion), repeating "Salva" and encouraging, telling Salva that he would protect Salva. Based on these analysis, we could find how Uncle Jewirr protected and help Salva.

Secondly, uncle is also supporting Salva on the spirit layers. Just as I had mention in the previous paragraph, Jewirr is Salva's only relatives. After Salva faced the death of his best friend Marial, Salva's spirit is just like on the edge of breaking down. But uncle could never solve the problem by bringing him a new friend. So uncle could only help Salva by telling him again and again that he would help Salva. In paragraph 7, except the loss of friend, the author mentioned an another issue: loss of family. Though this issue isn't mentioned by Salva, bu this is still a big hit to Salva. For he had never faced such circumstance, Salva was keeping numb on the way. After the sudden loss of friend, Salva then got sober and suddenly found the problem. Luckily, the problem wa again solved by uncle's accompany.

Although uncle was killed by the rebels in the later chapters, uncle still made great contribution to Salva on both physical and mental. Based on the analysis, we could see the two relationships and how did he relationship help Salva.

批注 [H1]: Good observation!

批注 [H2]: The topic sentence is quite clear. Good!



批注 [H4]: Redundant

批注 [H5]: In this paragraph, you fail to identify the nature of this type of relationship. Instead you are still talking about the features of one

Journey is an important symbol of the novel. Use specific examples of the novel to explain its meaning both literally and figuratively.

Features

Purpose

consequences

In the book *A Long Walk to Water*, both of the two characters took a journey. For Salva, he was taking journey to live. For Nya, she was also trying to keep herself alive. However, the two journeys were quite different. In this essay, we will discuss about the differences on the two journeys both literally and figuratively.

First of all, I would talk on the literature layers with combination the experiences of the two characters literally. From Southern Sudan to America, Salva was keep walking and walking. Not only towards water, but also taking up spiritual salvation to make up the death of his uncle and Marial. During the Journey, Salva was also learning, learning the leadership from his uncle and the way to work towards goal. To Nya, the journey is simply walking and taking back water again and again in the front of the passage. In the later chapters, the journeys' problem become how to get water. Nya, did not learned much, but she learned to wait and be patient. So the main theme of the two stories were firmly the same—way to water, the same as the title of the novel.

Secondly, Salva's Journey was quite different to Nya's on the figure layer. Though both of them were taking journey to keep alive. But obviously, Salva's trip was more risky than Nya's. On the way, Salva had to keep himself away from the rebels and faced the problem of the lack of food and water. These were reflected from Chapter 9 to Chapter 10. The journey was not only influenced by man-made issue, nut also affected by natural issue. Form Chapter seven and Chapter 13, we could find out that hostile animals were in anywhere. As a result, Salva was standing on the cliff of death at anytime. Now turn to Nya. What Nya faced was quite simple, but also fatal. During the journey, Nya faced another deadly feature: thorn. It was mentioned in chapter 2, which described how did Nya deal with the thorn. Another potential problem is the lack of water, it was even more serious than Salvas'. It was reflected in the processes of drilling. In Chapter sixteen, when a spray of water shot high in the sky, "Everyone cheered at the sight of water." From this we could analyze the fact that everyone was looking forward to water and this reflects the lack of water in the environment. Based on this comparison, journey could be understood as way to live on.

From the topic and the whole passage, we could analyze how does the word "journey" means. Based on these analysis and specific examples that are listed in the previous paragraphs, we could comprehend the word "journey" as way towards water and way to live on.

带格式的: 字体: 倾斜

批注 [H1]: What do you mean by salvation?

批注 [H2]: Good!

批注 [H3]: This is the figurative meaning of the journey other than the literary meaning.

批注 [H4]: Grammar!

带格式的: 突出显示

Describe the tribal relationship during and after the Second Sudanese War. Be sure to include specific details from *A long Walk to Water* to support your essay.

In the book *A long Walk to Water*, the war between the rebels and the Government Army is an important issue. It is also a contradiction between the two tribes: the Dinka and the Suer. In this essay, we will discuss about the variation of the relationship of the two tribes during and after the *Second Sudanese War*.

First of all, I would talk on the relationship between the two tribes during the Second Sudanese War. From the experience of Salva, we could see the conflicts. One of the most obvious examples is in Chapter 10. For the Suer men—the rebels, shot at Salva's uncle. To Salva, his uncle is his only relative during the war. Just imagine, if you, a teenager, suddenly lose your only spiritual pillar, what would you feel. From this, we could see the effect on the personal aspect, and we could also see what negative effect could bring to the relationship. How war affect on the population? To answer this question? From Chapter 1 to Chapter 13, from his home Loun-Ariik to the refugee camp in Kenya, from the first-person perspective of Salva, we could see lots of people walked and walked, toward the refugee camps. The rebels caused war and forced them to leave their country. For everyone, it is of course a unpleasant experience, so this intensify the problem on the relationship during the war.

Then, I would move on to talk about the relationship after the war. To discuss this, we would move on to Nya's story. Though the conflicts isn't obviously shown in the book, we could still feel it from Chapter 6: "Fear. Her mother was afraid." From the expression of Nya's mother, we see the fear from the Nuer people. Compared with Salva's story, which Dinka people were afraid of the Nuer people, we get the conclusion: there were more wars between the two tribes. However, it was said that it was already after the war, but why the two tribes were still afraid of each others? This show that the relationship maybe getting worse. Fortunately, the fact isn't like this. Analyzing the final chapter, when Salva, a Dinka person, helped the Suer tribe to get water, it is obvious that the dispute is less serious.

In the two stories, both of them were infected by the Second Sudanese war, and both of their lives are being affected. Based on the analysis of their experiences, we could see the changes on the relationship on the two tribes.

批注 [H1]: I like the way you introduce the topic. Make sure that you state your position in the first paragraph.

批注 [H2]: Good!

批注 [H3]: Think further on the reasons behind the phenomenon. Why?

批注 [H4]: Good! But what does the author common on the change? Is she providing an observation on the cause of the conflict together with its possible solution?

In this age-coming story, Salva matures from a boy to a young man. ↵

At the beginning of the story, when the war happened, Salva was not brave or strong. He was always trying to depend on others. At first, he was wandering around for no reason. After he found an old woman whom he could rely on for a very short time, he tried to rely on her. After the woman left, he kept staring out, without any thoughts or plans on how to make a living. When he was in the group, during the long trip, he was often hungry, thirsty or sad. Sometimes he did not have the bravery or determination to continue walking. He used to have a dependence on his uncle often.↵

After meeting Marial, Salva's mental was beginning to become more mature than before. He was learning to think in the position of others and was becoming stronger than before after Marial's death. Having a friend had inspired Salva to cherish friendship and lives. Marial led to Salva's second change.↵

Walking with the Dinka group through the long trip had developed Salva's bravery and determination. The hard environment had inspired Salva to be more determined and stronger. When Salva first met Marial, he met a true friend. They gave each other love and hope and helped each other. When Marial died, Salva had learnt to cherish friendship better than before. Another person who accompanied Salva through the long trip was Uncle. He was a relative of Salva's and often helped Salva with his life in the group. Uncle often gave him food and drinks and a shelter. Uncle had made Salva learn to be thankful and also made Salva to cherish his relatives. ↵

Uncle's death had led Salva to learn to become a useful person. After Uncle died, Salva did not have much good treat in the group. People saw him as a weak child who dragged them along the journey. This inspired Salva to be a useful person. He tried to be a useful person, who not only thought of himself, but others too. He tried to devote for others so that others would treat him better. This had finally led Salva to his leadership. When the refugee camp was destroyed years later, Salva led 1500 boys out of Ethiopia. He tried to treat everyone fair. This leadership had been developed since a young age, when his uncle died. Years later, when he returned to his hometown to dig water for his country, he was the leader of a group of workers. This sense of leadership had accompanied him since he was young and had facilitated his mature.↵

All in all, Salva's development had been developed by the sense of devotion, hardworking and leadership.↵



Various forms of Salva's families

Salva had experienced four forms of families. Each family played a different role in helping him survive.

The first one was his original family. It consisted of his parents, his brothers and himself. Salva's original family was the first place where he was born. It gave him life and gave him a quite prosperous life. Salva's original family had also given him a high quality of education. It played the role of breeding him. It was his first home ever.

The second one was the family consisted of Marial and Salva. Marial played the role of a friend during Salva's long trip to Ethiopia. This family had encouraged Salva a lot during the journey, it gave Salva a great deal of spiritual comfort and inspired Salva to continue his trip even after Marial's death.

The third one was the family consisted of Salva and his uncle. Salva was helpless before finding his uncle in the group, while he had found a dependence to survive after finding him. His uncle played an important role in helping him survive. His uncle gave him food and drink and led him out of hardships. Because of his uncle, others treated Salva well before his uncle's death. His uncle also gave Salva a great deal of inspiration. "One step at a time", this sentence came from Uncle's encouragement in the desert. Later, it became a kind of faith that led Salva out of difficulties in life. The special family also gave Salva love and hope. It made the eleven-year-old child feel the sense of dependence and being accompanied. The family had finally ended with the death of Salva's uncle, however, the death had inspired Salva to be a more useful person in society and had, for the first time, made Salva have the ambition of becoming a leader.

The fourth one was Salva's adopted family. This family had made Salva enjoy a good living environment and good education. It developed Salva into an educated, useful person and finally encouraged Salva to find his original family and to devote for his country. It was a quite selfless family that helped Salva live a better life. If Salva wasn't adopted by his American family, he could hardly survive in the refugee camp for the rest of his life. The adopted family played a key role to help Salva survive. It made Salva change into a useful person who had the ability to devote for the society and make a living of himself. It was not only a place that the adopted family had given him, but it raised Salva up from inside. It played the role of raising Salva by giving material base and education.

These four forms of families had all helped Salva survive through his rough life. They played different roles, and all did great effort in helping Salva live a better life.