

Chapter Six

1. Quote analysis

An author can describe important events in a story by just telling you about them: *The whole shack shivered and Harry sat bolt upright, staring at the door. Someone was outside, waiting to come in.*

Sometimes, though, what characters say are just as important, telling us what the speaker is like, and often telling us what has happened in the past or what to expect in the future

You can explain what a quote means in four parts, called a “quote analysis”:

1. Write the quote.
2. Explain who said the quote and to whom they were talking.
3. Paraphrase the quote. That is, put it in different words that mean the same thing, that you understand.
4. Explain what this quote says about either the character or the plot of the story that you might not have known without it. What kind of person would say these things? Why would they say it? What would they have to know or be thinking to say it?

Example:

Quote:

“I forbid you to ask him, Fred. No, don’t you dare. As though he needs reminding of that on his first day at school.”

Characters:

Mrs. Weasley says this to her son Fred.

Paraphrase:

“Don’t bother Harry Potter about Voldemort! He doesn’t need to think about scary things when he’s already nervous about starting school.”

What does this tell you?

This tells you that Mrs. Weasley knows that even though Harry is famous, he will probably be nervous on the first day of school just like anybody else, and that she expects her boys to treat people respectfully.

