

College Writer

Summer Assignment

Read the following essays (as well as the “Notes” from each author) in *When I Was Your Age: Original Stories About Growing Up*, and complete the attached “Evaluating Narrative Worksheet” for each story.

1. “Everything Will Be Okay” - James Howe (p. 37)
2. “Why I Never Ran Away From Home” - Katherine Paterson (p. 47)
3. “Reverend Abbott and Those Bloodshot Eyes” -Walter Dean Myers (p.61)
4. “Scouts Honor” - Avi (p. 119)
5. “Blue” - Francesca Lia Block (p. 137)

Name _____

College Writing

Evaluating Narrative

Directions: As you read the five assigned essays in *When I Was Your Age...*, complete one of these “Evaluating Narrative” worksheets for each (see all attached here.) Please write the corresponding title and page number for each.

Essay 1: “Everything Will Be Okay” - James Howe (p. 37)

1. Evaluate the piece’s opening. How does the writer “hook” the reader? Explain why it is effective.
2. Where did the writer utilize vivid imagery in his or her writing? Refer to specific examples. How did this enhance your experience reading the piece?
3. How did the writer choose to organize the essay? (Ex. chronological, descriptive, flashbacks, etc.)
4. How did the writer choose to conclude the piece? Is there a resolution?
5. What is the “point,” or message of the essay, or what quality is revealed about the writer?

Essay 2: “Why I Never Ran Away From Home” -Katherine Paterson (p. 47)

6. Evaluate the piece’s opening. How does the writer “hook” the reader? Explain why it is effective.

7. Where did the writer utilize vivid imagery in his or her writing? Refer to specific examples. How did this enhance your experience reading the piece?

8. How did the writer choose to organize the essay? (Ex. chronological, descriptive, flashbacks, etc.)

9. How did the writer choose to conclude the piece? Is there a resolution?

10. What is the “point,” or message of the essay, or what quality is revealed about the writer?

Essay 3: “Reverend Abbott and Those Bloodshot Eyes” -Walter Dean Myers (p.61)

11. Evaluate the piece’s opening. How does the writer “hook” the reader? Explain why it is effective.

12. Where did the writer utilize vivid imagery in his or her writing? Refer to specific examples. How did this enhance your experience reading the piece?

13. How did the writer choose to organize the essay? (Ex. chronological, descriptive, flashbacks, etc.)

14. How did the writer choose to conclude the piece? Is there a resolution?

15. What is the “point,” or message of the essay, or what quality is revealed about the writer?

Essay 4: "Scouts Honor" - Avi (p. 119)

16. Evaluate the piece's opening. How does the writer "hook" the reader? Explain why it is effective.

17. Where did the writer utilize vivid imagery in his or her writing? Refer to specific examples. How did this enhance your experience reading the piece?

18. How did the writer choose to organize the essay? (Ex. chronological, descriptive, flashbacks, etc.)

19. How did the writer choose to conclude the piece? Is there a resolution?

20. What is the "point," or message of the essay, or what quality is revealed about the writer?

Essay 5: “Blue” - Francesca Lia Block (p. 137)

21. Evaluate the piece’s opening. How does the writer “hook” the reader? Explain why it is effective.

22. Where did the writer utilize vivid imagery in his or her writing? Refer to specific examples. How did this enhance your experience reading the piece?

23. How did the writer choose to organize the essay? (Ex. chronological, descriptive, flashbacks, etc.)

24. How did the writer choose to conclude the piece? Is there a resolution?

25. What is the “point,” or message of the essay, or what quality is revealed about the writer?