# Tree Girl

Thematic Essay (four paragraphs)

Write a well-developed, four paragraph essay analyzing the significance of one theme in Ben Michaelsen’s novel. Your essay should follow the following format:

* Introduction:
* Hook
* 3-4 Sentences about the novel (setting, characters, plot, historical context)
* Claim: State the message (theme), and the two ways that it is developed.
* Body Paragraph 1:
* Topic Sentence: State the first way that the author develops the theme.
* Quote 1 with page number – don’t forget to introduce your quote (attach to your own words.
* Commentary: Analyze what this quote shows and how it supports the development of the theme.
* Quote 2 with page number – don’t forget to introduce your quote (attach to your own words.
* Commentary: Analyze what this quote shows and how it supports the development of the theme.
* Concluding Sentence: Therefore, … What does all this prove?
* Body Paragraph 2:
* Topic Sentence: State the second way that the author develops the theme.
* Quote 1 with page number – don’t forget to introduce your quote (attach to your own words.
* Commentary: Analyze what this quote shows and how it supports the development of the theme.
* Quote 2 with page number – don’t forget to introduce your quote (attach to your own words.
* Commentary: Analyze what this quote shows and how it supports the development of the theme.
* Concluding Sentence: Therefore, … What does all this prove?
* Conclusion:
* Restate your claim, and sum up your main ideas
* Universal idea: What can readers learn from this book and its message?

How does a writer develop his or her theme?

* Through a character’s actions
* Through a character’s thoughts
* Through a character’s speeches
* Through character development – does the character undergo a change? Consider: a character’s internal or external conflicts
* Through symbolism
* Through the environment that he or she describes
* Through the historical context
* Through repetition
* Through points of view (different perspectives)
* Through the mood of the story
* Through the writer’s tone
* Many others!!!

1. Theme (What is the message about your topic that the writer is trying to portray?): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. Which parts of the book are most influential in developing this theme? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. Now let’s think about how these parts of the book develop the theme. Look at the list above, and pick the two ways that you feel the author portrays his message. Then use your bookmark to write down the four most powerful quotes for support. Don’t forget to include the page number. Finally, include what this quote show the reader in the last column.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| How does the writer develop the theme? | Quotes with page number (Evidence) | This quote shows … |
|  | 1.  2. | 1.  2. |
|  | 1.  2. | 1.  2. |