

The body of your literary analysis will be a mixture of your observations (claims) and supporting evidence (quotations from the fiction that you integrate into your analysis and document with parenthetical citations). The quotation should be framed (introduced in some way), and the citation at the end will typically have the author's last name and the page number; however, if you introduce the quotation with the author's last name, or if you are continuing to analyze the same source, you only need to put in the page number; you'll see samples in the next paragraph. Then don't assume that your reader understands how the quotation relates to your claim; you need to add some comment (explanation) following the quoted material.

Here is an example exploring Sammy's character in John Updike's "A&P": Sammy seems to be championing the girls when he imagines the butcher is treating them as sex objects: "All that was left for us to see was old McMahon patting his mouth and looking after them sizing up their joints. Poor kids, I began to feel sorry for them" (Updike 133). However, Sammy not only objectifies the girls when he stares at the "sweet broad soft-looking can" (131) of the chunky girl in the plaid two-piece swimsuit or the bare shoulders and uncovered skin at the top of Queenie's bathing suit, but he also paints all girls as sub-human when he wonders, "You never know for sure how girls' minds work (do you really think it's a mind in there or just a buzz like a bee in a glass jar?)" (132). Even if his act of quitting for the sake of the girls seems like the act of a chivalric knight coming to the aid of damsels in distress, Sammy clearly does not have the pure heart of a Sir Galahad, nor does he really respect the girls.

Most of your paragraphs will have one or two quotations that support whatever idea (topic) that paragraph is about. For instance, if you were talking about Sammy being disrespectful, you might refer to passages where he calls the customers "sheep" (133) or "pigs in

a chute” (135). But do mention that like his sexist comments about the girls, he sees the people he is supposed to be serving as less than human, as animals.