**SAMPLE PATTERNS FOR THESES ON LITERARY WORKS**

1. In *(title of work)*, *(author) (illustrates, shows) (aspect) (adjective).*

***Example:*** In “Barn Burning,” William Faulkner shows the characters Sardie and Abner Snopes struggling for their identity.

2. In *(title of work)*, *(author)* uses *(one aspect)* to *(define, strengthen, illustrate)* the *(element of work).*

***Example:*** In “Youth,” Joseph Conrad uses foreshadowing to strengthen the plot.

3. In *(title of work)*, *(author)* uses *(an important part of work)* as a unifying device for *(one element), (another element),* and *(another element).* **NOTE:** The number of elements can vary from one to four.

***Example:*** In “Youth,” Joseph Conrad uses the sea as a unifying device for setting, structure and theme.

4. *(Author)* develops the character of *(character’s name)* in *(literary work)* through what he/she does, what he/she says, what other people say to or about him/her.

***Example:*** Langston Hughes develops the character of Semple in “Ways and Means”…

5. In *(title of work)*, *(author)* uses *(literary device)* to *(accomplish, develop, illustrate, strengthen) (element of work).*

***Example:*** In “The Masque of the Red Death,” Poe uses the symbolism of the stranger, the clock, and the seventh room to develop the theme of death.

6. *(Author) (shows, develops, illustrates)* the theme of *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_* in the *(play, poem, story)*.

***Example:*** Flannery O’Connor illustrates the theme of the effect of the selfishness of the grandmother upon the family in “A Good Man is Hard to Find.”

7. *(Author)* develops his character(s) in *(title of work)* through his/her use of language.

***Example:*** John Updike develops his characters in “A & P” through his use of figurative language.