

Annotated Examples Literature

1. Frankenstein vs. Dracula — Gothic Elements (Annotated)

Paragraph:

Both Frankenstein and Dracula use Gothic conventions to explore humanity's deepest fears, but they apply them for different thematic purposes. (Main Claim) Shelley uses isolated settings, stormy landscapes, and dimly lit laboratories to create psychological horror rooted in human ambition. (Point of Comparison: Gothic atmosphere) Stoker, by contrast, relies on supernatural forces, decaying castles, and nocturnal imagery to evoke fear of the foreign and unknown. (Contrast Point: different Gothic tools) In Frankenstein, the Gothic is internal—reflecting the consequences of scientific overreach—while in Dracula, it becomes external, symbolizing societal anxieties about invasion and moral collapse. (Reasoning)

Thus, while both novels rely on Gothic mood, they ultimately use it to warn readers about very different dangers. (Conclusion)

2. The Great Gatsby vs. Death of a Salesman — Symbolism (Annotated)

Paragraph:

Symbolism shapes the core themes of both The Great Gatsby and Death of a Salesman, yet each author uses symbols to critique the American Dream differently. (Main Claim) Fitzgerald's green light represents aspirational longing—an ideal always just out of reach. (Point of Comparison: symbols tied to desire) Miller's seeds, by contrast, symbolize Willy Loman's desperate attempt to cultivate a legacy he can never sustain. (Contrast Point: different symbolic functions) While Gatsby's symbol reflects the seductive illusion of success, Willy's symbol exposes the emotional toll of chasing that illusion long after it has failed him. (Reasoning) Together, the two works reveal how symbolic imagery can illuminate the promises—and failures—of American identity. (Conclusion)

3. Romantic vs. Modernist Poetry — Techniques (Annotated)

Paragraph:

Romantic and Modernist poets both explore the human condition, but they express their ideas through sharply different techniques. (Main Claim) Romantic poets such as Keats and Wordsworth use lyrical structure and nature imagery to achieve emotional clarity and transcendence. (Point of Comparison: poetic style) Modernists like Eliot and Pound reject this unity, instead employing fragmentation, symbolism, and ambiguity to portray alienation. (Contrast Point: aesthetic approach) This shift marks a broader transition from celebrating harmony between self and world to recognizing fractured modern consciousness. (Reasoning) Ultimately, the movements respond to their historical moments, shaping poetic technique to reflect evolving psychological realities. (Conclusion)

4. Hamlet vs. Macbeth — Characterization (Annotated)

Paragraph:

Shakespeare constructs tragic heroes in both Hamlet and Macbeth, yet their downfalls stem from opposite impulses. (Main Claim) Hamlet's tragedy grows from hesitation—constant reflection prevents him from acting decisively. (Point of Comparison: tragic flaw) Macbeth's downfall, by contrast, results from unrestrained ambition and impulse, fueled by external manipulation. (Contrast Point) These contrasting character arcs show how inaction and overaction can both lead to ruin when moral judgment collapses. (Reasoning) Thus, Shakespeare uses the two protagonists to demonstrate the multiple paths to self-destruction. (Conclusion)