

Sample Uses of Illustration in Literary Analysis Papers

1. PRETTY GOOD BUT NEEDS A BIT MORE EXPLANATION

To convey the idea that Bishop and Buddy are the true Christian characters of their works, the respective authors display their characters as somehow special. Buddy is set apart from the other characters because he speaks from the third person point of view. Buddy is also special because of his mysterious ability to find water. Basil Bennet calls Buddy's strange gift "a blessin." (Diviners, p.32) Leonard uses his character Basil in the "First Elegy" to explain just how unique Buddy is. Basil's speech gives the reader the feeling that Buddy has been personally touched by God. Basil says: "There's no tellin the weather. A man works, a man waits and he hopes and he prays, but the boy, he could feel the rain. And that boy...he was somethin. He couldn't talk for two cents or take the time to tie his shoes but he seemed to know things you figured nobody knew. Call it vein-finding, water-witching, dowsing, smellin, seekin, or divinin. The boy had a touch and a feel for water." (Diviners, p.8) **DOC FORM WRONG**

2. A BIT REPETITIVE BECAUSE NOT ENOUGH REAL DETAIL

Another good example of blue symbolizing cold is in SH5. **(DON'T ABBREV)** Vonnegut writes of how everything cold that Billy sees is blue and ivory. When Billy sees somebody who is dead, they are always blue and ivory. This symbolizes that they have no feeling and their bodies are cold. Also, when Roland Weary's feet were cold, they too were blue and ivory.

3. TOO MUCH QUOTE AND NOT ENOUGH CONTENT

"Rosewater was twice as smart as Billy, but he and Billy were dealing with similar crises in similar ways. They both had found life meaningless, partly because of what they had seen in war. Rosewater for instance, had shot a fourteen-year-old fireman, mistaking him for a German soldier. So it goes, And Billy had seen the greatest massacre in European history, which was the firebombing of Dresden. So it goes.

So they were trying to re-invent themselves and their universe. Science fiction was a big help."(p.67 Slaughterhouse Five) **DOC FORM WRONG**

Billy did not want to go on living because he just could not deal with the things he had lived through and experienced. The poet in "The Firebombing" also shared the feeling of not being able to deal with what had happened during the war that he was a part of.

4. PLOT SUMMARY WITH NO CLEAR POINT

"The presence was a pervasive as an odor, a warm sweet body of air encircling him, a violet shadow hanging around his shoulders. (VBA, p. 702). This passage seems to indicate the turning point in Francis's life. He sets everything around Powderhead on fire as if that were the only way to cleanse his spirit. At this moment, Francis seems to

shrug off the stranger/enemy and make his own decisions. At the end of the novel, he goes toward the dark city to where “the children of God lay sleeping.”

5. LACK OF CONNECTION BETWEEN EXAMPLE AND ILLUSTRATION

In “the Firebombing,” the patriotic duty to kill is portrayed in the lines,
“The honored aesthetic evil

The greatest sense of power in one’s life”

The feeling of patriotism also deadens the feeling of the mission itself. If the pilots had to think or see what they were doing, the raid would have been nearly impossible. Even many years later, the feeling of patriotism during the war lingers on such as in the line, “For twenty years, still nothing not as American as I am and proud of it.”

6. GOOD USE OF CITATION BUT TECHNICAL PROBLEMS

The theme of the dehumanization of man by war is also portrayed in Randall Jarrell’s poem, “The Death of the Ball Turret Gunner.” In this poem, after the gunner is killed he describes himself being “washed (me) from the turret with a hose”. (1. 5) By doing this, he becomes like dirt on the plane--something that is washed away because it is unpleasant. When a person dies, he is usually treated with respect and buried; however, the gunner had lost his humanity by becoming part of “the State”, so he was simply washed away and forgotten. (1. 1)

7. PROBLEMS WITH MERGING SYNTAX

...The soldiers are implying that Olaf is not patriotic, but at the end of the poem it seems that Olaf is a very patriotic person.

more brave than me; more blonde than you (1. 42)

This seems to say that not only was Olaf patriotic, but he was more American than the other soldiers that were kicking him around.