Metaphorical Journey Critical Essay

Task

**Choose a novel where a character undergoes a metaphorical journey.**

**Explain clearly the nature of this journey and the impact this has on the character.**

Introduction

* Name novel (in inverted commas) and writer.
* Name main character and sum up the nature of their journey (e.g. what obstacles/conflicts/issues they have to deal with.)
* Sum up how character’s experiences are interesting/intriguing/moving etc. by using evaluative/emotive vocabulary (poignant, moving, intriguing, etc.)

Explanation of a metaphorical journey

* Explain what a metaphorical journey is.
* Explain why so many novels include this area.
* Explain why your author has included a journey and what lessons/message do they convey through this which could be relevant/appropriate for you/your life.

Characterisation – opening/exposition of novel

* Explain your main character’s background (what situation/challenge/issue are they dealing with.)
* Explain how they feel about their life/self at the start of the novel.
* Sum up what their metaphorical journey will involve (e.g. resolution with family/friends; increased self-confidence/happiness/contentment/peace etc.)

Plot – Conflicts/issues/obstacles

* Explain in depth the impact the problems/issues etc. your character is facing/trying to deal with have on them (mentally, emotionally and physically.)
* Explain what emotions/thoughts this evokes in the reader and explain how the writer achieves this (through symbolism, foreshadowing, characterisation, narration etc.)
* Explain what the writer wants to reveal to us/inform us through the character’s journey.
* Explain how this is interesting/moving/distressing etc. to read about and include what it makes us think about these issues (try not to use I)

Outcome of conflict/issues etc.

* Explain to what extent the character is successful in achieving closure/resolution.
* Explain how they have done this or what has prevented them from resolving these issues
* Explain the character’s emotional/mental state at the end of the novel and explain how they feel about their life at this point.

Theme (can link to previous section if you wish to)

* Explain how the writer has used the character’s journey to reveal the key theme.
* Explain how effective you think the writer is in conveying this theme
* Explain your views/perceptions on the issues/conflict/problems your character has faced.

Conclusion (can link to theme paragraph if it is quite short.)

* Sum up how your character has developed/evolved over the course of the narrative
* Explain how you feel towards the character after everything they have experienced.
* Sum up how effective you think the writer was in conveying a metaphorical journey.