

Sample Written Analysis—*The False Prince*

(Quadrant 1)

The False Prince, by Jennifer A. Nielson, **tells the story of** a young orphan boy, Sage, who is purchased by Master Conner to be his servant. Sage is tied up and put in the back of a wagon with three other orphan boys. They are taken to Master Conner's estate to be a part of his secretive and dangerous plan. The boys know that their lives are in danger because Conner killed another orphan who was sick. The boys learn that the royal family is dead, and the kingdom of Carthya is on the brink of civil war. Conner plans to teach the boys to pass for noblemen. At the end of the two weeks, he will present one of the boys as the lost prince, Prince Jaron, to save the kingdom. **At the first plot point**, Sage gives up the idea of trying to escape **and** begins his training.

At the beginning of the story, the author creates a mood that is both mysterious and threatening by setting the story on the desolate plains and at the castle-like estate. The plains are "lonely and covered in gorse and nettle" (p. 19). This atmosphere increases the sense of mystery as Sage and the boys wonder what Conner is planning. When the boys arrive at Farthenwood, they see that it is a large estate built from rock, making it feel more like a prison. This setting increases Sage's feeling that he is trapped. Sage's only hope of survival is to mask who he really is in order to prove to Conner that he is worthy of the title of prince.

(Quadrants 2 and 3)

Training to be the false prince is not easy; Sage must learn about the history of Carthya, how to swordfight, horseback ride, and act like a nobleman. The other boys each have their own strengths and weaknesses, but Sage's biggest weakness is that he is a risk taker. Every night, he sneaks out of his room to explore Farthenwood. One night, Tobias locks the window, preventing Sage from getting back in. Furthermore, Sage is willing to take risks that could lead to his death. When Sage realizes that Conner has stolen his gold rock, he is furious and steals it back from him. As punishment, Sage is sent to the dungeon. Even after being whipped, Sage refuses to give up the rock because he doesn't want to bend to Conner's wishes. **At the midpoint**, Tobias is no longer in the running, **and** it becomes clear that Sage will most likely be chosen to be the false prince.

Rumors of the royal family's death force Conner to quickly decide. The final test is to determine who looks the most like the prince. After Sage's hair is dyed, he is surprised to see that he is closest in likeness. Then, Valdergrath comes to Farthenwood and demands to search the estate. During the search, the boys are almost discovered, and Sage kills one of Valdergrath's men. Conner announces that Roden will be king. But **at the turning point**, Sage performs Prince Jaron's parlor trick, **and** it is determined that he is the only one who will be able to convince the regents.

Throughout the story, the author uses clothing and costumes as symbols of lies and deception. Dressed as the prince, Sage still feels like an orphan. Sage felt like "[He] didn't belong in the silks and fine weaves Conner dressed [him] in" (p. 127). Although Sage feels like he is a fraud, he knows that he must go along with the charade to save his own life and protect Carthya. **The symbols used throughout the story remind the reader** that the truth is sometimes hidden.

(Quadrant 4)

The story concludes with a surprising twist as the reader learns that Sage is the real Prince Jaron, who sneaked away before his ship was attacked by pirates. Everyone believed him to be dead except Darius and King Eckbert, who encouraged Jaron to stay disguised as an Avenian orphan in order to save Carthya from war. Sage is not the only one in the story who has been wearing a mask.

As it turns out, Conner was the one who sent the pirates to attack Prince Jaron's ship, and he plans to become the prime regent and eventually the king of Carthya. It is clear that Conner will stop at nothing to gain power. But Sage has the object that will prove he is the real Prince Jaron, and when he presents himself and this object to the court, everyone bows to him. Sage is finally able to take off his mask and reveal his true identity as the brave, strong, and loyal king of Carthya! **As the story resolves,** Sage's first order of business as king is to arrest Conner and send him to the dungeons.

The False Prince **is a crime story, starting with** the violation of human rights **and ending with** fairness and justice being restored. **Across the story, the mood changes from** an atmosphere of mystery and foreboding **to** one of joy and celebration. **The message of the book** emphasizes the importance of being true to oneself by showing love, kindness, and fairness toward others.

Sample Written Analysis—*Anne of Green Gables*

(Quadrant 1)

Anne of Green Gables, by L. M. Montgomery, **tells the story of** a young orphan girl, Anne, who comes to live with Matthew and Marilla Cuthbert at Green Gables. Initially, Matthew and Marilla wanted to adopt a boy who could help them with farmwork. But a mistake was made, and the asylum sent a girl instead. Matthew wants to keep Anne, but Marilla is insistent that Anne be sent back to the asylum. After her first night at Green Gables, Anne is taken back to Mrs. Spencer, and plans are made for Anne to become a caregiver to a woman with eight children. Fortunately, Marilla has pity on Anne and agrees to take her back home to Green Gables. The more Marilla learns about Anne's life of poverty and neglect, the more she begins to take pity on her. When Rachel Lynde tells Anne she is homely, and Anne responds by telling Rachel she hates her, Marilla comes to Anne's defense. **At the first plot point**, Anne apologizes to Rachel **and** decides she loves Green Gables.

At the beginning of the story, the author creates a mood that is first hopeless and cold, then cheerful and warm. When Anne first arrives at Green Gables, she is enchanted by her surroundings. She names The Avenue the White Way of Delight, and she names Barry Pond the Lake of Shining Waters. Anne is hopeful that Green Gables will be her forever home. But upon arriving, Anne is met by Marilla's grim expression and the fearsomely clean house. "The whole apartment was of a rigidity not to be described in words, which sent a shiver to the very marrow of Anne's bones" (p. 37). **Will Anne learn to let the bright light within her shine and bring warmth to Green Gables?**

(Quadrants 2 and 3)

As Anne settles in at Green Gables, she seems to always find herself in trouble. Anne is accused of taking Marilla's brooch and confesses to it only so that she can attend the church picnic. Later the brooch is found attached to one of Marilla's shawls. When Diana Barry, Anne's bosom friend, comes to tea, Anne accidentally serves her currant wine instead of raspberry cordial, and Diana goes home drunk! When the pastor and his wife comes to tea, Anne bakes a cake and mistakenly uses liniment instead of vanilla in the cake batter. When Anne tries to dye her hair black because she hates having red hair, she accidentally colors it green! Despite Anne's troubles, she prefers to look on the bright side of things. **At the midpoint**, Anne learns that despite her troublesome nature, people do find her very amusing, **and** she realizes how nice it is to finally feel understood.

Anne begins to find kindred spirits all around her. Her friends—Matthew, Mrs. Lynde, Diana, Mrs. Allen, and Aunt Barry—all enjoy her imagination, chatter, and good humor. Even Mrs. Barry is impressed with Anne after she saves Minnie May from dying of croup. Marilla not only finds herself liking Anne, but she realizes when Anne breaks her ankle that Anne "was dearer to her than anything else on the earth" (p. 202). Matthew shows Anne how much she means to him when he has a new dress made for her, with puffed sleeves! Anne realizes how good it makes her feel to forgive others and be forgiven, but there is one person Anne simply cannot seem to forgive, and this is Gilbert Blythe. **At the turning point**, Gilbert rescues Anne from drowning and apologizes to her **and** even though she later regrets it, Anne is unyielding.

Throughout the story, the author uses laughter and humor **as symbols of** connection. Marilla begins to love Anne for her wild imagination and finds humor in it. When she thinks of Anne's false confession to Rachel Lynde, she laughs. When Anne tearfully imagines Dianna Barry getting married, Marilla has to turn quickly away so that Anne doesn't see her twitching face. Anne is even able to keep Miss Barry in good humor. Marilla tells Matthew, ". . . there is one thing for certain, no house will ever be dull that [Anne's] in" (p. 117). Anne's wild imagination and troublesome nature

keep everyone laughing and amused. This laughter helps to create a feeling of connection. **The symbols used throughout the story remind the reader that** laughter is a part of love and happiness.

(Quadrant 4)

As the story concludes, Anne finally feels that she belongs somewhere and that is at home at Green Gables. Anne is selected to apply for a scholarship to Queens where she will study to become a teacher. She and Gilbert Blythe tie for first place. Anne moves to town and works hard in school but feels homesick. When she returns home, she finds both Matthew and Marilla are unwell. When Matthew dies, Anne decides to give up her scholarship and stay at Green Gables. **The story is resolved when** Gilbert gives up his chance to teach at the Avonlea school so that Anne can take the position, and Anne finally tells Gilbert she forgives him and wants to be friends.

Anne of Green Gables **is a love story**, starting with a feeling of loneliness and despair and ending with a feeling of happiness and belonging. At the beginning of the story, the mood is cold and uninviting, but by the end of the story the mood is warm and hopeful. **The message of the story is that** love is the key to happiness, and you can find love and belonging by sharing your light with others.

Sample Written Analysis—*Oliver Twist*

(Quadrant 1)

Oliver Twist, by Charles Dickens, **tells the story of** a young orphan boy, Oliver, whose mother dies shortly after childbirth. No one knows where his mother came from, and Oliver is immediately sent to the orphanage to be raised in poverty. At nine years old, Oliver is sent to the workhouse where he is starved and threatened by the other boys who are bigger than him. When he asks for more food, Oliver is severely punished and eventually sent to live with the undertaker as an apprentice. There he is bullied, and eventually Oliver decides to run away. He travels by foot almost seventy miles to London in the middle of winter. Desperate for food and shelter, Oliver is befriended by an untrustworthy boy named Jack Dodger, who is part of a London street gang. One day, Oliver sees Jack and his friend Charley rob an old gentleman at a bookstall. Oliver is accused of being the pickpocket and is sent to court. Eventually his name is cleared, but Oliver collapses with fever. **At the first plot point**, the old gentleman shows kindness and compassion to Oliver, **and** Oliver is determined to show respect to his benefactor.

At the beginning of the story, the author creates a mood that is hopeless, cold, and uncaring. The setting of the story shifts from one miserable place to another, from a parish hospital to an orphanage, from a workhouse to a coffin-maker's shop, and from a dark apartment to a prison. In the beginning, when Oliver runs away to London, he finds himself still cold, hungry, and alone. “. . . the wind moaned dismally over the empty fields; and he was cold and hungry, and more alone than he had ever felt before.” When Oliver is finally taken in by the old gentleman Mr. Brownlow, Oliver's new circumstances are a sharp contrast to his previous ones. Oliver is given a warm bed, a quiet room, and food to nourish him to health. He is treated with kindness, love, and compassion. **Will Oliver's hunger for love and belonging finally be satisfied?**

(Quadrants 2 and 3)

Just as Oliver's life begins to look hopeful, Fagin and his gang trap Oliver back into thieving. When Oliver is sent on an errand to return some books to the bookseller, Bill and Nancy grab him and take him back to Fagin. Oliver is more upset with the fact that Mr. Brownlow will think he is a thief than with his hopeless circumstances. He is forced to help Bill with a home robbery. During the robbery, Oliver is shot in the arm. After escaping, Oliver is left to die in a ditch. **At the midpoint**, Oliver wakes up and returns half dead to the home he robbed, and the young lady who lives there shows compassion to him.

While Oliver enjoys his new life under the care of Mrs. Maylie and Rose, the mystery of his past begins to be revealed. A mysterious man named Monks visits the parish hospital where Oliver was born to inquire about his mother. He is given a locket and gold ring that belonged to Oliver's mother. Both items are the only clues as to Oliver's identity, but Monks throws them in the river because he doesn't want Oliver's identity revealed. Eventually, Rose takes Oliver to see Mr. Brownlow, and Oliver explains his disappearance and begs for forgiveness. **At the turning point**, Mr. Brownlow agrees to help Rose in finding out the truth about Oliver's past **and** secure his inheritance.

(Quadrant 4)

The story concludes with a bit of a surprise ending in which justice is served. Mr. Brownlow confronts Monks with the truth: Monks is Oliver's half brother! This makes Oliver a rightful heir to his father's estate. Even more surprising, Rose is Oliver's aunt! **As the story resolves**, those on the side of evil meet their fate. Fagin is sent to prison, and Bill dies trying to evade the police. For those

on the side of good, the story ends happily; Rose marries her sweetheart, and Oliver is adopted by Mr. Brownlow.

Oliver Twist **is a crime story, starting with** injustice **and ending with** justice served (for most of the characters anyway). As the story opens, the mood is hopeless, but as the story ends the reader feels hopeful that Oliver's life will finally be a happy one. The title of the book is suitable to all the twists and turns! **The message of the story** is that we all hunger for love and belonging, and at the end of the day, love wins.