What kind of narrative text is it? (*novel, short story, fable, satirical novel, detective story, science fiction story, humorous story*, etc)

The exposition
- What is the setting of the story (time and place)?
- What atmosphere is created?
- Do the setting or the places of action have a symbolic meaning?
- Who are the main characters and how are they introduced?
- What central idea or theme is hinted at?
- What is the function of the title?
- Does the story open abruptly?
- Considering the importance of the opening: what does the first sentence imply? How does it arrest the reader's interest?

The characters
- How do the main characters develop?
- Do the characters undergo a change?
- Who are the lesser characters and what is their function?
- How are the characters introduced?
- What are the characters' problems, conflicts, motives?
- What are the relationships between the characters?

The plot (Handlungsgefüge)
- What is the plot of the story?
- What motives lead to characters' action?
- What causes and consequences are there?

Point of view/The narrator
- Where does the narrator stand in relation to the story?
- From what point of view is the story told?
- Is the point of view constant or does it change?

The **sequence of events**
- Is the story told chronologically?
- Does the narration anticipate any event?
- Are there any flashbacks?
- Are there any parallel plots or main and sub-plots?
- Does the story show how the lives of a number of persons are intertwined?
- Is there a recurrent pattern in the sequence of events?
- Does the story have a surprise ending/an open ending?
- Does the story have a framework structure?
- Range of time: Does the story concentrate on a few moments, hours, a single year, or does it cover a lifetime?

Tension and suspense
- Does the story have a dramatic structure (exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, dénouement)?
- Does the narrator withhold narration in order to create suspense?
- Does the narrator employ expansion of time in order to create suspense?

Time scheme
- Is reading-time shorter or longer than acting-time?
- Why does the narrator use expansion of time?

Theme
- What problem, conflict, idea is the theme of the story?
- Does the story/novel have a leitmotif?
- Is there a recurrent pattern in meaning of events?

Conclusion
- How does the story end: does it have a surprise ending/an open ending/a happy ending?
- What is the function of the final sentences of the story?