



The Age of Miracles **Thematic Analysis Essay**

Examine the themes you annotated as you read The Age of Miracles. Do you have particularly strong evidence for one theme? Is there one theme you noticed more predominantly than the others? Select one of the themes as the focus of your thematic analysis essay.

For this essay, you will answer the essential question: **What elements of the plot support or demonstrate the theme of the novel?** In other words, which parts of the story show the theme you selected?

Write an essay that follows these guidelines:

- Your essay should include all of the necessary parts of a good five-paragraph essay, including an introduction paragraph with a thesis and assertions, body paragraphs with ample, specific support, and a conclusion that restates the main ideas and creates closure without being repetitive.
 - Your thesis is the big idea of your essay; your assertions are the three topics you will discuss to support your thesis.
- You must include quotes from the novel as support. Cite the quotes you use with the author's last name and the page number in parentheses after the quote.
 - Make clear connections between your ideas and the quotes you select. Don't assume the reader follows your reasoning. Your inferences need support from specific details and explanation.
 - Do not select quotes that summarize the plot; instead, select quotes that support or demonstrate the theme.
- Phrases to avoid:
 - "I am going to write about . . ."
 - "This quote means . . ."
 - "The first quote I will discuss . . ."
- Proofread and edit carefully.
 - NO first or second person.
- Your essay must be typed, double-spaced, in twelve-point Times New Roman font with standard margins and an appropriate heading. Consult the MLA format handout for assistance.
- Consult the attached rubric; it will be used to score your essay.