

# Evidence That Rings

Trace how a literary analysis builds a claim from textual evidence.

**ELA.11.C.1.3** “Write literary analyses to support claims, using logical reasoning, credible evidence from sources, and elaboration, demonstrating an understanding of literary elements.”

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## 1 READ AND MARK \_\_\_\_\_ Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Underline each claim, circle each quoted or precise piece of textual evidence, and number the sentences that explain how evidence supports a claim. Your marks should show how the analysis connects literary elements to its theme.

### Model Analysis: “The Harbor Bell”

- ① In the original short story “The Harbor Bell,” Mina returns to her island after years away and finds the bell tower silent. The story suggests that belonging is not inherited automatically. Instead, it is rebuilt through difficult choices. Mina first calls the island “a place that had forgotten my name,” an image that makes her separation feel personal rather than merely geographic. Her decision to climb the damaged tower establishes the central conflict: she wants to leave the past behind, yet she cannot ignore the community that shaped her. This conflict makes Mina’s later action meaningful.
- ② Moreno develops Mina’s character through the repeated image of rust. When Mina touches the bell rope, rust “reddens her palm like a small wound.” This simile connects the neglected tower to an injury, showing that the island’s silence has consequences. Later, Mina does not polish the bell for visitors. She repairs its cracked wooden wheel, a quieter task that lets the bell ring again. The contrast between display and repair supports the claim that Mina seeks responsibility, not praise. Because the narrator focuses on her private labor, readers can infer that her renewed belonging comes from service.
- ③ The ending reinforces this interpretation through setting and structure. At dawn, the bell sounds once across the fog, but Mina is already walking toward the village school, where she has agreed to teach navigation. Dawn traditionally signals a beginning, and the fog prevents Mina from seeing a clear future. Even so, she moves forward. Placing the bell’s sound before Mina’s new work shows that she honors her history without becoming trapped in it. The final image, “one clear note entering the gray,” symbolizes a fragile but deliberate connection between Mina and the island. Thus, the story’s imagery and ending develop a theme of belonging earned through contribution.

**2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE** \_\_\_\_\_ Use the passage

**1** What claim does the analysis make about belonging in “The Harbor Bell”?

**2** How does the simile about rust “redden[ing] her palm like a small wound” support the analysis?

**3** Explain how the contrast between polishing the bell and repairing its wheel supports a claim about Mina’s character.

**4** How do the dawn setting, the fog, and the order of the final events develop the analysis’s theme?

**3 YOUR TURN** \_\_\_\_\_ Your own words

Write a 150 to 200 word literary analysis paragraph about a literary work you have read. Make one claim about a literary element, use two brief quotations or precise details from the text, and explain how each piece of evidence supports your claim. Name the author and title.

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**PART 1 • READ AND MARK**

Underline each claim, circle each quoted or precise piece of textual evidence, and number the sentences that explain how evidence supports a claim. Your marks should show how the analysis connects literary elements to its theme. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

**PART 2 • ANSWERS**

| # | QUESTION                                                                                                             | ANSWER                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|---|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | What claim does the analysis make about belonging in "The Harbor Bell"?                                              | <b>Belonging is not inherited automatically. It is rebuilt or earned through difficult choices and contribution.</b>                                                                                         |
| 2 | How does the simile about rust "redden[ing] her palm like a small wound" support the analysis?                       | <b>It compares the neglected tower to an injury, showing that the island's silence has harmful consequences.</b>                                                                                             |
| 3 | Explain how the contrast between polishing the bell and repairing its wheel supports a claim about Mina's character. | <b>Polishing would create a display for visitors, while repairing the wheel restores the bell's purpose. The contrast shows that Mina wants responsibility rather than praise.</b>                           |
| 4 | How do the dawn setting, the fog, and the order of the final events develop the analysis's theme?                    | <b>Dawn suggests a new beginning, while fog shows Mina cannot see her future clearly. The bell sounds before she begins teaching, showing that she honors her past while moving forward through service.</b> |

**PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)**

In Kate Chopin's "The Story of an Hour," irony and imagery reveal that Louise Mallard's response to her husband's reported death is a desire for independence, not simple grief. At first, she weeps immediately, but the scene outside her open window includes "patches of blue sky," an image that suggests possibility after confinement. As Louise recognizes the meaning of that possibility, she whispers, "Free, free, free!" Her repeated word shows that she connects widowhood with control over her own life. Chopin also uses situational irony in the final scene. Readers know Louise has imagined a future of self-direction, yet the other characters believe she died from happiness when Brently walks in alive. The doctors' explanation, "joy that kills," reverses what readers understand. This irony exposes how completely the people around Louise misunderstand her inner life. Through these elements, Chopin critiques a marriage system that leaves Louise's private hopes invisible and unheard.

Accept equivalent explanations that accurately connect the cited details to the stated claims and theme. For Part 3, look for a defensible claim, two accurate pieces of evidence from the named text, and reasoning that explains the evidence rather than merely repeating it.