

Literary Analysis
Top-Down Analysis

- I. **Form** – The overarching goals of the novel (reflection, commentary, examination) that lend to **Thematic Shape** of Novel.
- a. **Find the familiar settings, devices, characterizations, conflicts**
 - b. **Categorize the elements according to familiar forms**



Epistolary Pastoral Cityscape

Sentimental Epic Picaresque

- II. **Plot** – The storytelling mechanisms that move the plot forward
- a. **Find the archetypal elements**
 - i. *The Monster* (heroes, villains, and helpers)
 - ii. *The Journey* (lessons learned through conflict)
 - iii. *Rags to Riches* (fortune and its outcomes)
 - iv. *Tragedy /Comedy* (Heroes vs. Forces Outside Themselves)
 - v. *Voyage and Return* (Misfortune of Pleasure)
 - vi. *The Quest* (Goals, Desires, Consequences)
 - b. **Categorize the elements according to familiar roles**
 - i. Helpers
 - ii. Tricksters
 - iii. Heroes
 - iv. Dark and Light Figures
- III. **Details** – Building blocks on which the story is build
- a. **Find the Devices that contribute to the story's development**
 - i. Character
 - ii. Conflict
 - iii. Setting
 - b. **Consider devices and determine their effect on story**
 - i. Imagery as contrast
 - ii. Symbols as theme
 - iii. Contrast as metaphor
 - iv. Setting as Theme