

silly children. Running and hollering and running and hollering. Nothing to it" (page 9). Yet she does not fit in with the older girls (thirteen to fifteen) she knows either. Once when these girls, who do not invite her to join their club, had a party, Frankie "stood in the alley and watched and listened" (page 10); and when John Henry suggests that she might be interested in their club, Frankie tells him, "Don't mention those crooks to me" (page 11). Frankie Addams has outgrown the younger children, yet she is not quite ready to join the older girls. She is not a member of either group.

Body
paragraph 2
(discusses
second
subtopic)

Feeling cut off from the rest of the world, Frankie Addams begins to lose any clear idea of who she is. She has stopped being the old Frankie she knew before, but she has not yet become a new, complete person. For now, she is unpredictable and rebellious. She had begun to change in the spring, stealing a three-way knife from a local store. "This began to change Frankie and she did not understand the change" (page 19). And as the summer wore on she became more and more discontented: "This was the summer when Frankie was sick and tired of being Frankie. She hated herself, and had become a loafer and a no-good who hung around the summer kitchen: dirty and greedy and mean and sad" (page 18). As Frankie became more confused about herself, she often didn't know how to act. She "would do anything that occurred to her" (page 21) without thinking of the consequences. She took her father's pistol in addition to stealing the pocketknife and smoked cigarettes whenever she could snatch them from Berenice, their housekeeper. Her older brother's approaching wedding gives Frankie something, finally, that she wants to be a part of. She fantasizes about it constantly and decides she will leave with her brother and his bride after the wedding. She talks of nothing but the wedding and how the three of them will go away together. Berenice claims that Frankie has fallen "in love with the wedding" (page 68). Frankie even goes so far as calling herself F. Jasmine Addams so that her name, like her

Body
paragraph 3
(discusses
third
subtopic)

Sample Literary Analysis

The title of a literary analysis paper can reflect the topic of the paper and the main point that the writer will make. After fully identifying the work and author, the introduction states the main point that interprets one or more elements of the work for the reader. In the body, supporting information develops the main point, usually within subtopics. The paper's conclusion reminds the reader of the main point and uses it to explain the work as a whole.

The following paper on Carson McCullers's *The Member of the Wedding* illustrates the format of a literary analysis paper.

Frankie Addams: Portrait of an Adolescent

Introduction
with statement of main point
Frankie Addams, the twelve-year-old main character in Carson McCullers's short novel *The Member of the Wedding*, is a lonely, rebellious adolescent living in the South in the 1940's. Searching for where she fits into the world, she finds herself caught between being a child and being an adult.

Body
paragraph 1
(discusses first subtopic)
Frankie feels lonely and unhappy because she does not seem to fit in with those around her. When her six-year-old cousin, John Henry, suggests that they go outside to play with the neighborhood children, Frankie refuses and refers to them as "Just a lot of ugly

brother's and his bride's, will begin with the letters J and A. When the wedding finally takes place, Frankie insists on staying with the newlyweds. As the couple is about to leave for their honeymoon, Frankie makes a terrible scene, desperately clinging to the steering wheel of their car until her father and others have to drag her away.

Back from the wedding, in a final act of rebellion Frankie tries to run away from home. She is caught by the police and returned to her father. But after that incident, Frankie changes again. It is as if she finally crosses the line and becomes a new kind of person. Returning to school in the fall, Frankie has a new best friend and new interests. She now talks about travel and about art; as she tells Berenice, "I am just mad about Michelangelo" (page 130). Frankie's attitude toward Berenice, her former confidante, has also changed. The way she talks to Berenice shows that she has become cooler and more self-confident. In fact, she becomes almost arrogant when she tells Berenice, "There's no use our discussing a certain party. You could not possibly understand her. It's just not in you" (page 130).

Frankie Addams goes through a difficult time in *The Member of the Wedding*, a time when she seems to have no place in the world, seems to be a member of no group. But it turns out also to be a time of great change, a necessary transition from one stage of life to another. She comes out of her rebelliousness and confusion changed, transformed from an insecure, lonely child into a self-assured young woman.

EXERCISE A: Understanding a Literary Analysis Paper.
Answer the following questions about the literary analysis paper on *The Member of the Wedding*.

1. What main point about the work is presented in the introduction?
2. How does the title contribute to the reader's understanding of the main point?
3. Besides the main point, what other information is given in

the introduction?

4. What subtopics of the main point are discussed in the body paragraphs?
5. How are the subtopics related to the main point?
6. Give two examples of the supporting information presented for each subtopic.
7. What is the order of the subtopics?
8. Which sentence in the conclusion acts as a reminder of the statement of the main point in the introduction?
9. What does the conclusion add to your understanding of the main point?
10. How do the closing remarks in the conclusion pull the whole paper together?

Body
paragraph 4
(discusses
fourth
subtopic)

Conclusion
with
reminder
of main
point and
closing
remarks