

Sarah Lurie's Letter to the Author

Dorothy Parker, 'Penelope'

Analyze Sarah's letter to the author in detail and fill in the table

Parts of the text	Content	Textual Coherence/Purpose	Linguistic devices: chunks and phrases	Personal response / critical evaluation
1	<p>Incident in grandma's life: personal experience: gender inequality Summary of grandma's life. Reasons why she is considered a hero by the writer: she is a strong woman in the face of hardship. Poem altered the writer's perception of the role of female figures in society and in her life</p>	<p>Introduction/Hooks the reader: an anecdote Link between personal experience (grandma's life) and the poem.</p>	<p>The other night I sat...reminiscing I was shocked that..... ...stands out as... ...such a unique and incredible human being... When I read your poem, not only did my grandma come to mine, the potential ... of all women did. This extraordinary poem altered my perception of.....</p>	
2	<p>Poem as a reminder of the struggle for gender equality. Reference to the title of the poem. Comparison between 'Penelope' in the poem and grandma. There are male and female heroes. However, society tends to focus on the male heroes (gender inequality / the need for female empowerment)</p>	<p>Presenting the theme/naming the issue</p>	<p>...the world around me struggles with..... That is why we need... Your poem offers such guidance. A key to understanding your poem is the title itself. By titling your poem...., you push the reader to question the belief that..... We have a concrete image in our minds of.... In other words... I like how your poem concludes, '...', emphasizing the fact that..... ...readers are led to view the story in light of..... ...serves as evidence that.....</p>	

3	<p>Experience of gender inequality in the writer's personal life: in the classroom, in sports</p> <p>Appreciation of empowered women in the writer's life, change of perception due to response to poem, desire to become an empowered woman herself</p>	<p>Elaboration of the issue. Relevant evidence to support the point of view.</p> <p>The writer's response to the poem: insight</p>	<p>I experience ... first hand every day. ...you brought to my attention that..... After reading your poem I finally understood that... Ever since I read your poem... My point is you have made it possible for me to acknowledge..... I used not to think twice about...but your poem has opened my eyes I now realize... And now, I truly appreciate...</p>	
4	<p>Experience of gender inequality in team sports (funding, support), Need for empowerment and fight for equality not only locally (the writer's school) but on a larger scale (educational system).</p>	<p>Elaboration of issue. Relevant evidence to support the point of view.</p> <p>The writer's response to the poem: action</p>	<p>Reading your poem gave me insight into my personal experience and made it clear to me that.....</p>	
5	<p>Looking more deeply into feminist ideas. Extinguishing the 'weak' female stereotype. Fighting against gender stereotypes in schools and sports.</p>	<p>Summarizing and Concluding The writer's response to the poem: action</p>	<p>Your poem has inspired me to look more deeply into..... How important it is for us to recognize.... You have helped me recognize that..... Thank you for opening my eyes to....</p>	