

## How can you develop a strong analysis of a selection?

To analyze means to break down into parts. The parts might be individuals in a story or specific ideas in an argument or other components. One way to analyze a text is to use the following two strategies. You will see them in action here one by one.

**Strategy 1:** Identify what the text says explicitly and cite textual evidence to support your view.

**Strategy 2:** Identify what the text says implicitly and cite textual evidence to support your view.

**Strategy 1:** Identify what the text says explicitly and cite textual evidence to support your view.

Explicit information includes statements that the writer states clearly and that most readers would agree on. Some examples are

- facts about events
- statements by individuals
- comments by a narrator or the writer

**Directions:** The excerpt on the following screen is by Langston Hughes. He is talking about a typical African American who does not like anything that expresses black culture. Break down the excerpt into important ideas and identify what is explicitly said. Use a chart like the one on the screens after the excerpt to help you organize your analysis.

The old subconscious “white is best” runs through her mind. Years of study under white teachers, a lifetime of white books, pictures, and papers, and white manners, morals, and Puritan standards made her dislike the spirituals. And now she turns up her nose at jazz and all its manifestations—likewise almost everything else distinctly racial. . . . But, to my mind, it is the duty of the younger Negro artist, if he accepts any duties at all from outsiders, to change through the force of his art that old whispering “I want to be white,” hidden in the aspirations of his people, to “Why should I want to be white? I am a Negro—and beautiful!”

Langston Hughes, “The Negro Artist and the Racial Mountain,” pp. 83–84

# Analyzing Selections

Cluster 2 page 47

Statement	Explicit Meaning
The old subconscious “white is best” runs through her mind.	
And now she turns up her nose at jazz and all its manifestations—likewise almost everything else distinctly racial.	

## Analyzing Selections

Cluster 2 page 47

Statement	Explicit Meaning
The old subconscious “white is best” runs through her mind.	The woman thinks white culture is better than black culture.
And now she turns up her nose at jazz and all its manifestations—likewise almost everything else distinctly racial.	The woman dislikes anything that expresses black culture.

# Analyzing Selections

Cluster 2 page 47

Statement	Explicit Meaning
It is the duty of the younger Negro artist . . . to change through the force of his art that old whispering “I want to be white” . . .	
“I am a Negro—and beautiful!”	

## Analyzing Selections

Cluster 2 page 47

Statement	Explicit Meaning
It is the duty of the younger Negro artist . . . to change through the force of his art that old whispering “I want to be white” . . .	Black artists should use their art to change how African Americans view white culture.
“I am a Negro—and beautiful!”	Blacks should be proud of their culture.



**Strategy 2:** Identify what the text says implicitly and cite textual evidence to support your view.

Implicit information includes everything that a reader infers from a text. This often includes

- the motivation for an individual's actions
- the significance of a plot development
- the theme of a piece of writing

Since implicit information is not stated clearly, various readers are more likely to disagree about it than they are about explicit information.

## Analyzing Selections

Cluster 2 page 47

**Directions:** Analyze the selection from “The Negro Artist and the Racial Mountain,” stating what you learn implicitly.

Statement	Implicit Meaning
The old subconscious “white is best” runs through her mind.	
And now she turns up her nose at jazz and all its manifestations—likewise almost everything else distinctly racial.	

## Analyzing Selections

Cluster 2 page 47

**Directions:** Analyze the selection from “The Negro Artist and the Racial Mountain,” stating what you learn implicitly.

Statement	Implicit Meaning
The old subconscious “white is best” runs through her mind.	The woman would rather be white than black.
And now she turns up her nose at jazz and all its manifestations—likewise almost everything else distinctly racial.	The woman has learned to think poorly of culture created by people who share her heritage.

## Analyzing Selections

Cluster 2 page 47

Statement	Implicit Meaning
It is the duty of the younger Negro artist . . . to change through the force of his art that old whispering “I want to be white” . . .	
“I am a Negro—and beautiful!”	

## Analyzing Selections

Cluster 2 page 47

Statement	Implicit Meaning
It is the duty of the younger Negro artist . . . to change through the force of his art that old whispering “I want to be white” . . .	Black artists should challenge the ideas held by many African Americans.
“I am a Negro—and beautiful!”	Blacks and whites are equal.

**Directions:** Below is an excerpt about Langston Hughes from *From Slavery to Freedom: A History of African Americans*, by John Hope Franklin and Alfred A. Moss, Jr. After reading the excerpt, explain what it says about Hughes both explicitly and implicitly.

While Hughes was a true rebel poet, writing in the best traditions of the New Negro, he did not cry or moan. Frequently he laughed, revealing a freedom from the restrictions of race that equaled his freedom from the restrictions of form. He could compose deeply moving verses full of pride of race, such as “The Negro Speaks of Rivers,” or he could write of the most humble walks of life, as in “Brass Spittoons,” with a freedom and nobility of expression that raised them many levels higher.

## Analyzing Selections

Cluster 2 page 47

**Directions:** From each phrase from the passage, state what you learn explicitly and implicitly.

Statement	Explicit Meaning	Implicit Meaning
While Hughes was a true rebel poet, writing in the best traditions of the New Negro, he did not cry or moan. Frequently he laughed,		

## Analyzing Selections

Cluster 2 page 47

**Directions:** From each phrase from the passage, state what you learn explicitly and implicitly.

Statement	Explicit Meaning	Implicit Meaning
While Hughes was a true rebel poet, writing in the best traditions of the New Negro, he did not cry or moan. Frequently he laughed,	Hughes was clearly part of the Harlem Renaissance.	The use of “rebel” indicates that the writer thinks Hughes was fighting against mainstream culture. However, he reacted to oppression with a positive outlook.



## Analyzing Selections

Cluster 2 page 47

**Directions:** From each phrase from the passage, state what you learn explicitly and implicitly.

Statement	Explicit Meaning	Implicit Meaning
He could compose deeply moving verses full of pride of race,		
he could write of the most humble walks of life,		

## Analyzing Selections

Cluster 2 page 47

**Directions:** From each phrase from the passage, state what you learn explicitly and implicitly.

Statement	Explicit Meaning	Implicit Meaning
He could compose deeply moving verses full of pride of race,	He wrote poems expressing his pride in his heritage.	His ability to write “deeply moving” verses indicates that he was very talented.
he could write of the most humble walks of life,	Hughes could write about typical people.	Hughes had empathy for all people, whether successful and artistic like himself, or not.