How can you develop a strong analysis of a selection?

Analysis 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: Analyze the excerpt on the following screens by breaking it down into important ideas and identifying what is explicitly said. Use the chart on the screens after the excerpt to help you organize your analysis.

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That was the illusion of the whole hippie ethos, that there was this abundance. I think the movement started in California —and was most powerful here because there was this illusion of abundance here. Fruits were falling from the trees, rent was cheap, there were places to stay, the weather was tolerable even in the winter, there was a community of people who were into sharing. But there wasn't an abundance. There was an abundance at a certain time for certain people.

In early 1967, people would just give things away.... Then in the summer of '67 was the Summer of Love. People started storming in by the thousands, and within three months there were people begging ... so many came that the surplus changed to scarcity. It got very ugly fast. People got into

continued

really bad drugs like speed and heroin. There were ripoffs, violence, guns being drawn, people really malnourished, hepatitis, people living on the street with no place stay. I quickly saw that the counterculture wasn't going to make it. It wasn't going to work. It was an illusion. And meanwhile the war was going on. It became more and more clear that you couldn't just set up little islands of peace and love in the middle of the Vietnam War.

from "Hippies," page 55

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Explain the explicit meaning of the excerpts.

Statement	Explicit Meaning
I think the movement started in California— and was most powerful here because there was this illusion of abundance here.	
so many came that the surplus changed to scarcity.	

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Your answers may look like this.

Statement	Explicit Meaning
I think the movement started in California— and was most powerful here because there was this illusion of abundance here.	The hippie movement was based on an illusion that California was a place of abundance, or that there was more than enough money, food, and shelter for everyone to share.
so many came that the surplus changed to scarcity.	But too many people came and there wasn't enough money, food, etc. to go around.

Cluster 2 page 50

Explain the explicit meaning of the excerpts.

Statement	Explicit Meaning
I quickly saw that the counterculture wasn't going to make it. It wasn't going to work. It was an illusion.	
you couldn't just set up little islands of peace and love in the middle of the Vietnam War.	

Cluster 2 page 50

Your answers may look like this.

Statement	Explicit Meaning
I quickly saw that the counterculture wasn't going to make it. It wasn't going to work. It was an illusion.	The writer realized that the Hippie movement wasn't going to last.
you couldn't just set up little islands of peace and love in the middle of the Vietnam War.	The movement had little impact because the war had more influence.

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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.

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Directions: Analyze the selection from "Hippies" stating what you learn implicitly.

Statement	Implicit Meaning
I think the movement started in California— and was most powerful here because there was this illusion of abundance here.	
so many came that the surplus changed to scarcity.	

Cluster 2 page 50

Your answers may look like this.

Statement	Implicit Meaning
I think the movement started in California— and was most powerful here because there was this illusion of abundance here.	The writer believes that the Hippie movement was doomed to fail because it was based upon the false idea that California was and would continue to be a place with more than enough food and shelter for the people living there.
so many came that the surplus changed to scarcity.	Too many people came to live off the surplus, without working to replenish what they took from society.

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Explain the implicit meaning of the excerpts.

Statement	Implicit Meaning
I quickly saw that the counterculture wasn't going to make it. It wasn't going to work. It was an illusion.	
you couldn't just set up little islands of peace and love in the middle of the Vietnam War.	

. .

Your answers may look like this.

Statement	Implicit Meaning
I quickly saw that the counterculture wasn't going to make it. It wasn't going to work. It was an illusion.	The Hippie culture was based on lofty principles that don't work in the real world.
you couldn't just set up little islands of peace and love in the middle of the Vietnam War.	The Hippie movement couldn't counteract the Vietnam War because its influence was too limited to make a difference.

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Directions: Study the excerpt from "Village" on the following screens. It describes the thoughts of a soldier named Rico as he fights in Vietnam. After reading the excerpt, explain what it says about the character both explicitly and implicitly.

He [Rico] had been cautioned. The rows of thatched huts were not really peoples' homes, but "hootches," makeshift temporary stays built by the makeshift enemy. But then there were the real enemies. There were too many dead Americans to prove it. The hootches didn't matter. The people didn't matter. . . .

Rico looked down and saw huts that were homes, clustered in an intimacy that he knew well. The village of Mai Cao was no different than Valverde, the barrio where he had grown up. A woman came out of a hut, was walking toward a stream east of the slope.... It struck him again, the feeling—a bond—people all the same everywhere.

continued

The same scent from the earth, the same warmth from the sun, a woman walking with a child—his mother, Trini. . . . His mother, like the earth and sun, mattered. The woman with the child on her shoulder mattered. Every human life in the village mattered. He knew this not only with the mind but with the heart.

from "Village," page 58

Cluster 2 page 50

Directions: From each quotation from the passage, state what you learn explicitly.

Statement	Explicit Meaning
The rows of thatched huts were not really peoples' homes, but "hootches," makeshift temporary stays built by the makeshift enemy.	
The village of Mai Cao was no different than Valverde, the barrio where he had grown up.	

Cluster 2 page 50

Your answers may look like this.

Statement	Explicit Meaning
The rows of thatched huts were not really peoples' homes, but "hootches," makeshift temporary stays built by the makeshift enemy.	Rico had been trained to think of Vietnam villagers as the enemy.
The village of Mai Cao was no different than Valverde, the barrio where he had grown up.	Rico compared the village of Mai Cao to the town he grew up in.

Explain the explicit meaning of the excerpts.

Statement	Explicit Meaning
It struck him again, the feeling—a bond—people all the same everywhere.	
Every human life in the village mattered. He knew this not only with the mind but with the heart.	

Cluster 2 page 50

Your answers may look like this.

Statement	Explicit Meaning
It struck him again, the feeling—a bond—people all the same everywhere.	He sees the similarities of all people and feels a bond between them.
Every human life in the village mattered. He knew this not only with the mind but with the heart.	Rico feels and believes that all human life is important and should be protected.

6 B

Cluster 2 page 50

Directions: From each excerpt from the passage, state what you learn implicitly.

Statement	Implicit Meaning
The rows of thatched huts were not really peoples' homes, but "hootches," makeshift temporary stays built by the makeshift enemy.	
The village of Mai Cao was no different than Valverde, the barrio where he had grown up.	

Cluster 2 page 50

Your answers may look like this.

Statement	Implicit Meaning
The rows of thatched huts were not really peoples' homes, but "hootches," makeshift temporary stays built by the makeshift enemy.	The army needs soldiers to view all Vietnamese as the enemy because its goal is to win the war.
The village of Mai Cao was no different than Valverde, the barrio where he had grown up.	Rico, however, can't see this village full of innocent people as the enemy. They are too much like him.

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Cluster 2 page 50

Directions: From each quotation from the passage, state what you learn implicitly.

Statement	Implicit Meaning
It struck him again, the feeling—a bond—people all the same everywhere.	
Every human life in the village mattered. He knew this not only with the mind but with the heart.	

Your answers may look like this.

Statement	Implicit Meaning
It struck him again, the feeling—a bond—people all the same everywhere.	Rico does not accept the army's idea that all Vietnamese are the enemy. He feels that he is too much in common with the villagers to kill them.
Every human life in the village mattered. He knew this not only with the mind but with the heart.	Rico is going to have a hard time fighting the war. He believes too deeply in the sacredness of all human life.