**Text Analysis:**

**Memorize the list of reading strategies for your mock exam. Understand each one and how it might be applied to the text in order to construct meaning. Add some other terms of your own from your previous research. E.g. myth, archetype, abjection**

* **is detective work requiring close attention to detail.**
* **inspires questions and seeks to find patterns and meaning.**
* **involves judgements about logic and reasonableness.**

**“The Girl in the Tree”**

**Process – construct a mind map, moving in a clockwise direction. Place your theme statement at the center when you are happy with it.**

1. **GENRE:** How would you describe this genre? What are some of the conventions of the genre?
2. **CONCEPTS:** What concepts emerge from the text? **(**The *concept* refers to what a reader understands the work **to be about.)** List these concepts.
3. **IDEAS:** What idea/s does the text promote/convey/present about that concepts?
4. **BINARY OPPOSITIONS:** List these dualisms. Which term in each pair is privileged? (**Note:** The **cultural setting a reader** is a part of may **influence their interpretation** of a work of literature; only one concept, from the binary opposition, is ready, in our mind, to be privileged and the other one is usually put aside as having the second priority.)
5. **IDEOLOGY:** What ideologies underpin these binaries? (Ideology incorporates values, attitudes, assumptions and beliefs) e.g. How would you describe the ideology of the girl and the ideology of the father? How do their ideologies clash? Who are we positioned to sympathize with? Why? Therefore, what ideology is privileged? What ideology underpins the text?
6. **NARRATION:** How is the text narrated to position the audience? Is the narrator reliable? Do we completely agree with her perspective? Are the father’s actions justifiable or forgivable?
7. **SYMBOLS AND METAPHORS:** What are some key symbols and/or metaphors that significantly contribute to meaning in the text? (Consider symbols and metaphors that are repeated and/or developed in a text to shape representations and ideas in the text. What is the most significant symbol in the text?What idea/s does this symbol represent?)
8. **Stylistic Features and Literary Techniques:** Consider the use of **dialogue** as a means of constructing meaning and positioning the readers in relation to characters. Also consider text structure: Analyze how an author’s choices concerning how to structure a text, order events within it, and manipulate time (e.g., pacing, flashbacks, framed narrative) create such effects as mystery, tension, or surprise. Is this a conventional narrative structure with orientation, complication, sequence of events, rising action/tension, climax, and denouement? Are these elements ordered differently in the narrative? How is suspense achieved? Is the structure circular?
9. **W-C-C - Representations** — How does the text construct representations of people, groups, places or ideas? Consider the representation of the girl herself, mother, father, city and country.
10. **W-C-C - Ideology -** What cultural beliefs, values and attitudes that reinforce particular power structures in society underpin the text? How does the text challenge or reinforce dominant worldviews? i.e. Are we positioned to appreciate the girl or the father’s perspective/world view? Or are we invited to sympathize with both ideologies? Which is a dominant worldview – the father’s or the girl’s?
11. **W-C-C –** **Cultural ideas** – Which is the most important topic in this text – gender, environment or age? Why?

**Which idea/theme is best supported by the text structures and language features of the text?**

**What binary oppositions underpin and structure the text?**

**What cultural beliefs, values and attitudes (ideology) that reinforce particular power structures in society underpin the text?**