**Literary Analysis**

**The Task**: Read and analyze the short story, “After Twenty Years” (by O. Henry) in terms of its meaning. Interpret the term “meaning” in a manner that best suits you and your team: Literary theme, author’s message, main point, or even something less formal like “my take away” all are perfectly appropriate interpretations of “meaning.” Be prepared to explain what you read and what you analyzed in the story that led you to a particular meaning(s).

**Reminder**: Be patient in your analysis. Treat it as a process. Expect that the meaning you develop will evolve and take shape over the course of your discussions and analyses as your understandings and interpretations of the story go deeper and deeper.

**The Follow-Up Discussion**: As part of the analysis, each team will create a display (suggestions below) that will articulate a meaning(s) for the story and document the team’s analysis—an analysis that makes evident the particular meaning(s). We will post the displays of all teams and then as a whole group we will study each team’s approach, as well as the similarities and differences that emerged across teams.

**Important**: While your analysis of this particular story is important and you and your team are expected to bring forth the most thoughtful reading and analysis of the story possible, be attentive to the process of literary analysis, as well. When we conclude our collective work, we should all know a lot more about this story, but we should all know more about how to analyze literature, in general, as well.

**About the Displays**: Suggestions for common formatting of displays (below) are designed to enrich our Follow-Up Discussions, not to dictate a singular way to analyze literature. If your team comes up with a somewhat different way to format and/or approach the display, consult with Bill.

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| **Chunk**  **the**  **Story**  **Content** |  | **Story** |  | **Annotate**  **Analysis**  **Supporting Meaning** |
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| Meaning (elaborate): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | | | | |