



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Literary Elements in film: *An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge*

Find the video on YouTube at: \_\_\_\_\_

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GuP5kUQro40>

\*What are some prominent formal elements in the film? Particularly, what is the characterization, point of view, setting, imagery, and mood?

Characterization -

Point of view -

Setting -

Imagery -

Mood -

\*Illustrate the most memorable, vivid scene from the film and label the character(s) names in your drawing along with three adjectives to describe each of them. Then, below the drawing, complete the sentences about setting and mood.

Drawing:

1. The setting of this scene is \_\_\_\_\_.

2. The mood of this scene is \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_.

Key Literary Elements of a Scene  
(applicable to both text and film)

Below is a list of five key literary elements that exist not only in an overall storyline, but also within individual scenes. Note that "Plot" has been removed from the list, as we will consider literary elements specifically within scenes, not within overall story structure.

When you examine texts and films for class, consider the following questions. They will help you identify scenes and find the literary elements of those scenes.

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**Characterization**

What kinds of person/people are the character(s)? What are their beliefs/hopes/dreams/ideals/values/morals/fears/strengths/weaknesses/vices/virtues/talents? How do they conduct themselves? What do they say and do to reveal themselves? What do others say and do about them? What are your opinions or feelings about them?

**Point of View**

What point of view does the story use? Is it consistent in its use of this point of view? If shifts are made, are they justified?

**Setting**

Setting refers to TIME and PLACE: Time: of day, year, era/age? Place: city, country? Outside, inside? Rich and opulent or poor and simple? Stark and barren landscape? Rainy or sunny? Beautiful or adversarial? Dark or light? Dangerous or safe? The weather? how does all this affect meaning? What feelings (atmosphere) are evoked just by the setting?

**Imagery**

Imagery, in a literary text, is an author's use of vivid and descriptive language to add depth to his/her work. It appeals to human senses to deepen the reader's understanding of the work. What images/sensory-ideas are presented in the text?

**Mood**

In literature, mood is a literary element that evokes certain feelings or vibes in readers through words and descriptions. Mood is evidenced by the use of particular language that informs your responses and overall emotional response toward what is read: Is the feeling of the scene joyful? Melancholy? Angry? Peaceful? Scary? Mysterious?

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*Owl Creek Film-to-Text Exercise*

We will re-view the final scene from *Owl Creek* (from 22:00 until the end) three times. After each viewing, mark notes/details/events that will aid you in completing the prompt below. After we have viewed the clip three times, you will use your notes to write your final narrative text version of the scene.

“Write exactly what you see happen in this final scene. Capture as many details and images as possible in a narrative style. Do not reference anything other than what you see and hear onscreen in the final scene. Essentially, you are trying to narrate in writing what the film shows in pictures and sound. Write as much as you feel is necessary to complete this.”

<p>Notes:</p>
<p>Narrative text:</p>

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*An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge*, by Ambrose Bierce  
(ending passage)

Doubtless, despite his suffering, he had fallen asleep while walking, for now he sees another scene--perhaps he has merely recovered from a delirium. He stands at the gate of his own home. All is as he left it, and all bright and beautiful in the morning sunshine. He must have traveled the entire night. As he pushes open the gate and passes up the wide white walk, he sees a flutter of female garments; his wife, looking fresh and cool and sweet, steps down from the veranda to meet him. At the bottom of the steps she stands waiting, with a smile of ineffable joy, an attitude of matchless grace and dignity. Ah, how beautiful she is! He springs forwards with extended arms. As he is about to clasp her he feels a stunning blow upon the back of the neck; a blinding white light blazes all about him with a sound like the shock of a cannon--then all is darkness and silence!

Peyton Farquhar was dead; his body, with a broken neck, swung gently from side to side beneath the timbers of the Owl Creek bridge.

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1. How does your written narrative ending compare to Bierce's original? Look closely at what you wrote versus what he wrote, and consider the difference in formal elements including characterization, point of view, setting, imagery, and mood.
  
  2. Given the film version and Bierce's original text, do you feel that there are formal details you missed in your written narrative version of the story's ending? How would you write your ending differently to better capture aspects of characterization, point of view, setting, imagery, and mood?