

Topics for Literary Analysis Essay 1

Compare the Stage Manager and Grandpa in *Education of Little Tree*.

Do the characters in *Education of Little Tree* appreciate life more than the character in *Our Town*?

How are the views of death presented differently in each book?

How is the relationship between Little Tree and his grandparents like the relationship of Emily and George with their parents?

What is the difference between being raised in *Our Town* and being raised with the Native Americans in *Education of Little Tree*?

How are the endings of *Our Town* and *Education of Little Tree* alike?

Compare everyday life in both *Our Town* and *Education of Little Tree*.

How did the setting of both stories affect the characters within them?

Was time an essential point in *Education of Little Tree* as it was in *Our Town*?

How is death portrayed or acknowledged in both stories?

Who is more innocent—Emily or Little Tree? Explain.

How is the idea of living fully presented in both books?

What is the main difference in the way that Little Tree and his family look at death and the way the characters in *Our Town* look at death?

Both Little Tree and Emily exhibit similar characteristics of being naïve and innocent. What in the two story lines connects their similar character features?

Compare and contrast the writing styles of both the authors. Does each of these writing styles effectively convey the meaning and intention of the book? Would a different writing style have worked better?

Which character, Emily or Little Tree, is more tragic? What events and personality traits cause this character to be more tragic?

Both of these books use flashbacks. How are these flashbacks used to emphasize a specific event or situation?

Compare the theme of realization of the truth in *Our Town* and *Education of Little Tree*.

Compare and contrast the growth of awareness in Emily and Little Tree.

What role does nature play in both *Education of Little Tree* and *Our Town*?

How would both authors define innocence?

What does each book tell us about life in America during the early twentieth century?

Discuss the movement from darkness to light in both stories.

To Wilder and Carter, what does it mean to live life to the fullest?

Compare and contrast the way both authors use sky imagery.

The transience of life is a theme in both *Education of Little Tree* and *Our Town*. Compare and contrast the ways in which each author presents this idea.

Compare and contrast how both stories define love.

How does the setting affect the characters in each story?

Both stories make statements about what education should be. Compare and contrast the ways in which each author defines education.

Discuss the irony found in both stories.

Where can we find the eternal in both stories?

Compare and contrast the way Wilder and Carter capture the cycle of life.

Compare and contrast the way Wilder and Carter view the natural world.

How would Carter and Wilder define ignorance?