

*The majority of this content is quoted or adapted from A Garden of English.*

## **Part One: Breaking Down the Prompt**

Tip: The directions are exactly the same each year, except for the passage given and what your task focus is.

a. **BEFORE** you even read the passage, think "**COMMAND AND CONQUER**" to get your task (Command) and your focus (Conquer).

1. Command: "analyze how Morgan uses literary elements and techniques to convey Aloma's complex responses to her changing environment"
2. Conquer: This is what you look for while reading, that way you can focus on HOW the author uses "literary elements and techniques" to convey...
  - o Look in the command and look for the "to+verb" ("to convey...").
  - o Then figure out what you can't know without analyzing the passage, and write a question like this: "**What** are the narrator's (Aloma's) **RESPONSES** to the many changes she experienced when moving away from her large family?"

b. You also have to consider the type of **COMPLEXITY** the character/setting/theme exhibits in the passage. Three common types:

1. Layers:
  - o Ex., A character may be kind, industrious, and jovial; or
  - o Oppressive, Violent, ominous, and foreboding;
  - o Hamlet: loving, intelligent, devious
2. Contradictory: they might contradict themselves, even if it doesn't make sense
  - o Seemingly innocent, yet maniacal
  - o Outwardly comforting, yet slightly offsetting
  - o e.g., Hamlet: devoted but treacherous
3. Paradoxical: a further type of contradiction, but it is full of truth on both sides of the contradiction
  - o Loving, yet demanding justice at all costs
  - o Caring about one's self, yet being entirely self-sacrificial
  - o e.g., Hamlet: Completely dedicated to bringing about justice for his father's death yet causes lots of death himself

c. **DURING** and **AFTER** you read the passage, think about a simple way to answer your "CONQUER" question.

- Example: The narrator remembers her feelings about moving away from her extended family as being \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, but also \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.  
(Blanks might be adjectives.)
  - o The narrator remembers her summer being full of blissful and naïve, though sometimes potentially dangerous, adventures.

