

The Truth About Forever by Sarah Dessen

Summer Reading Assignment for Incoming Freshman 2019-2020

Due: August 23, 2019 - for both Fall and Spring semesters

### Character Analysis Essay

**Assignment:** Your assignment is to write a character analysis of a major character in the novel *The Truth About Forever* by Sarah Dessen. Once you have chosen a character to analyze, choose three adjectives that describe that character. These adjectives, or **character traits**, will be the basis of your **five-paragraph essay**.

#### Requirements:

**\*\*Your thesis statement should be stated directly in your introduction and be proven throughout your body paragraphs.**

**\*\*You must use at least two quotations from the novel in each of your three body paragraphs to support your ideas. **Annotate as you are reading!!****

**\*\*These quotations must be correctly documented according to MLA guidelines....**  
Refer to "Format for Quotations"

**\*\*The paper must be typed in 12 point font and double-spaced.**

**\*\*The paper must have a title...center it...do not underline it or put it in quotes.**

**\*\* Identifying information (your name, English I, Mrs. Peyton, 23 August 2019) must be in upper left corner of first page**

**\*\* Last name must be in upper right corner of each page with the page number**

**\*\*Length - The paper should be at least 1 ½ - 2 pages.**

**\*\* Deductions will be made for the following errors:**

Contractions (except in direct-quotations from the story)...they are informal

1st and 2nd person pronouns....keep your paper in 3rd person

Slang and non-specific words (things, guy, a lot, kid, etc.)...also informal

Grammar, spelling and usage errors

Typing errors

Tense shifts...write in all present or all past tense...be consistent

Not underlining or italicizing book titles

#### Character Choices:

Macy Queen

Deborah Queen

Caroline (Queen) Thurber

Delia

Wes

Bert

Kristy Palmetto

Monica Palmetto

Jason Talbot

Bethany and Amanda (as a pair)

## Detailed Outline:

### Paragraph #1

**Introduction** – general comments about the character and/or novel lead you to your **thesis statement** (described above). Be sure you have identified the author and title of the book and the character you will be analyzing. Some questions you could address in your introduction include:

- Why did you pick this character?
- What do you like and/or dislike about this character?
- Do you identify with this character on any level?
- Do you know someone similar to him or her? Explain.

### Paragraphs #2 - #4

**Three Body Paragraphs** – the **topic sentence** for each body paragraph includes one character trait you chose to describe your character. For example, “Atticus Finch is a man of great integrity.” Follow the topic sentence with **evidence from the novel**: examples from the story that support your topic sentence, and at least one direct quotation from the novel in each body paragraph. Next, **explain** how your examples support your topic sentence, and conclude each body paragraph with a summarizing “clincher” sentence to wrap-up your ideas.

### Paragraph #5

**Conclusion** – restate your thesis statement and add some final thoughts about your character and/or the novel...leave the reader in awe of your wisdom!

## Format for Quotations

### Example #1 Basic Quotation

Create an intro to your quotation that helps the reader understand its meaning. This is called a “tag line.”

A change in Jem’s attitude toward the Radleys is shown when Scout reports, “Less than two weeks later we found a whole package of chewing gum, which we enjoyed, the fact that everything on the Radley Place was poison having slipped Jem’s memory” (Lee, 60).

After every quote, write the author’s last name and the page number that the quote is found on in parenthesis, followed by period.

### Example #2 A Quote within a Quote

Double quotation marks around the entire quote; single quotation marks to show where the quotations exist already in the text.

Jem’s frustration with the injustices of the world is shown in the courtroom. “‘Doesn’t make it right,’ said Jem stolidly. He beat his fist softly on his knee. ‘You just can’t convict a man on evidence like that – you can’t’” (Lee, 220).

Author’s last name and page number.

### Example #3 Changing a word or two in a quotation to clarify its meaning.

Harper Lee helps her readers understand why this neighbor is so mysterious to the children of the neighborhood when she states that “Mr. Radley kept [Boo] chained to the bed most of the time” (Lee, 16).

If you make a change to the original text (for clarity) put the change in brackets.