Literary Analysis Outline and Pre-Writing

Directions: Literary analysis involves identifying particular aspects or narrative techniques in a text (or texts) and responding or discussing that aspect or technique in an essay-like format. A literary analysis is not a book summary, and requires readers to make inferences and personal interpretations. For this particular literary analysis, you will be discussing one of the themes you identified in the novel that you read.

Prompt: What is a major theme developed in the novel you read, and why is that theme important?

Format:

Introduction: Your introduction paragraph should include the following:
   A. Hook: Catch your reader's interest. Some hooks for a literary analysis include:
      a. A meaningful quotation (from your book or another source)
      b. A rich, vivid description of your novel, or some aspect of your novel such as the main character, a significant event, the major conflict, etc.
      c. An analogy or metaphor that connects to the theme you are discussing
   B. Your introduction should include the title and novel of your book, and should end with your thesis statement responding to the prompt.

Body: The body of your paper should logically and fully develop and support your thesis. This includes:
   A. A Topic Sentence: Restate and expand on the theme you identified. Be specific!
   B. Context for first piece of textual evidence (quote from novel): Who says it? What has happened in the novel that has lead to this point? Give the reader any information they will need to know to make sense of the quote you are about to share.
   C. Quote with Page #: A specific passage from your novel that provides evidence of the theme you're discussing.
   D. Commentary: Your explanation and interpretation of the quote and how it develops the theme you are discussing.
   E. Context for second piece of textual evidence (quote from novel): Who says it? What has happened in the novel that has lead to this point? Give the reader any information they will need to know to make sense of the quote you are about to share.
   F. Quote with Page #: A specific passage from your novel that provides evidence of the theme you're discussing.
   G. Commentary: Your explanation and interpretation of the quote and how it develops the theme you are discussing.
   H. Concluding Sentence: Conclude the body of your analysis by tying your textual evidence and commentary back to the theme you are discussing.

Conclusion: The last paragraph is where you explain why the theme you identified is important in a larger context.
   A. What does the author want us to learn from this theme?
   B. Why is this significant or important? How can this be applied to the “real world?”
Pre-Writing Organizer

**Introduction:**
Hook (circle the technique you place to use for your hook):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meaningful Quotation from novel or another source</th>
<th>Vivid description of some aspect of novel</th>
<th>Analogy or metaphor connecting to the theme being discussed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Thesis:
One major theme Spinelli develops in __________________________ is __________________________.
This is theme is important because __________________________.

**Body:**
Topic Sentence (expanding on theme): __________________________
Quote #1 (textual evidence with page #): __________________________

Quote #2 (textual evidence with page #): __________________________

**Conclusion:**
Opening Sentence: Ultimately, the theme of __________________________ is important because __________________________.

List two lessons the reader can learn and/or “real world” connections that can be made to this theme that you might discuss in your conclusion.
1. __________________________
2. __________________________