

Formal Analysis (See Gorman, ch. 5).

- Deals with specific literary form, or genre.
- While the literary contextual analysis is what goes on around the text, we are now looking at our specific text.
- As in literary context, we consider genre.
 - Is the textual unit a parable.?
 - Is it a miracle story?
 - Is it an apocalypse or part of an apocalypse?

Formal Analysis

- ◎ In writing your paper, you will need to do the following.
 - If the passage is a parable, you will need to provide a definition of parable.
 - If the passage is a miracle story, you will need to say what kind of a miracle story (nature miracle, healing, exorcism).
 - If the passage is a narrative, what kind of narrative.
 - Is this a dispute?
 - Is this a teaching narrative?

Formal Analysis

- ◎ Type of literature.
 - Is it prose?
 - Is it poetry?
 - Is it a hymn?

Formal Analysis

- ◎ Structure of the text.
 - Parts and movement.
 - To determine the structure, you present a formal outline.

Types of Patterns

- ⦿ Repetition.
 - Key words or phrases repeated.
- ⦿ Contrast.
 - Key words or phrases or phrases in opposition.
 - I.e. You were this, but you are now this. See Eph. 2:11-13.
- ⦿ Chiasm
 - A structure where the beginning and end are similar.
 - Pattern, ABCB'A'. See Rom 5:1-2, 11.

Movement

- ◎ Formal analysis also traces the movement of a text, to its end or climax.
- ◎ In narrative, as you will find in gospel stories, it is as follows:
 - Introduction, setting. Where does the story take place?
 - Rising action. Action develops. Conflict.
 - Climax. The point of solution or greatest conflict.
 - Falling action, movement toward the end.
 - Conclusion.

Formal Analysis

- ◎ Look for important words that indicate movement.
- ◎ Look for the verbs, the words of action.
- ◎ Look for important relational clues (remember close reading instructions from IT 502).
 - Contrast: “but,” “instead.”
 - Continuation: “therefore,” “next,” “then.”
 - Logical relationship: “because,” “therefore.”

Formal Analysis

- ① When you have determined the nature of the text, you produce your outline.
- ② For the paper, discuss the relationships in the text.
- ③ Conclude your paper with an outline.

Group Exercise: Luke 3:1-20.

- ◎ What is the movement of the text?
 - What is the literary type or genre?
 - What words indicate movement?
 - What groups are addressed?
 - What outline is presented for the text?