

Literary Paragraph Example

- Topic Sentence** *Subject (what) + Direction (so what)*
The motif of the tree is an allusion to the garden of Eden, that, in turn, is symbolic of a loss of innocence.
- Evidence** *Context + Speaker + “quote” (p).*
When Finny has to explain to Mr. Prud’homme why the boys missed dinner, Gene thinks, “...Finny knew, if he stopped to think, that jumping out of the tree was even more forbidden than missing a meal” (15).
- Explanation** *Literal + Figurative + Connection to direction.*
First explain what the quote, very literally, means: Gene realizes that jumping from the tree is prohibited.
Next, explain how that is significant: Gene’s recognition that the tree is forbidden suggests that he realizes that they have done something wrong.
Finally, connect to the direction of your topic sentence: Gene is beginning to understand that, like the forbidden tree in the Garden of Eden that destroys Adam and Eve’s innocence, the boys have participated in something that has the potential to destroy their innocence.

The motif of the tree is an allusion to the Garden of Eden, that, in turn, is symbolic of a loss of innocence. When Finny has to explain to Mr. Prud’homme why the boys missed dinner, Gene thinks, “...Finny knew, if he stopped to think, that jumping out of the tree was even more forbidden than missing a meal” (15). Gene realizes that jumping from the tree is prohibited. Gene’s recognition that the tree is forbidden suggests that he realizes that they have done something wrong. Gene is beginning to understand that, like the forbidden tree in the Garden of Eden that destroys Adam and Eve’s innocence, the boys have participated in something that has the potential to destroy their innocence.