

**Ship Breaker Essay**

**Task:** Write a four-paragraph essay on a theme in Paolo Bacigalupi’s *Ship Breaker*. What is important about this theme? How does the author develop the theme? Think about character’s actions, symbols, setting, etc.

**Complete this checklist before you come to class tomorrow. Fill in all blanks. Initial next to each task when you have completed it. You will write the essay in class tomorrow and be allowed to use this sheet. You will hand in the completed sheet with your essay. This sheet will count for a grade.**

_____	Based on our discussion and our giant sheet of quotes, pick the theme you would like to focus on.  _____
_____	Pick at least two different scenes from the book that will help you develop your essay. (Ex. The part where Sloth betrays Nailer; the part where Sadna rescues Nailer from Lopez; the part where Nailer leaves his dad to die, etc.)  #1 _____ #2 _____
_____	Find those scenes in the book and re-read them.
_____	Select the perfect quotes from those scenes that will help you develop your essay. Include page numbers. Don’t use huge sections of text. Use only the most important words.  #1  #2
_____	Select at least one literary element from each scene that will help you develop your essay. (For instance, conflict, imagery, conflict, setting, etc.)  # 1 _____  #2 _____
_____	Prepare your thesis statement. Your thesis statement must include all of the following: ___author’s name, ___title of the text, ___genre, ___theme, and ___literary elements. <b>Examples:</b> -Markus Zusak uses setting and conflict to develop the theme of loyalty in the novel, <i>The Book Thief</i> . -Markus Zusak demonstrates the importance of loyalty in his novel, <i>The Book Thief</i> , through the use of setting and conflict.
_____	Review the outline on the back of this sheet

**Paragraph One** is your introduction. Introductions do not have to be lengthy. Start with a universal statement and move down to your thesis. For instance, if you have chosen to write about loyalty, then you might want to start with a few sentences about the importance of loyalty in general. You will end your first paragraph with your thesis statement.

**Paragraph Two** develops your first example. The first sentence is your topic sentence. Sample topic sentences:

- Zusak uses a brutal wartime setting to show the importance of loyalty.
- Loyalty is the only thing that keeps Max alive during Hitler's WW II rampage.
- Liesel learns the importance of loyalty the night the Nazi storm troopers enter her home on Himmel Strasse.

The rest of your paragraph supports and proves the point you make in your topic sentence. You should include at least one quote and several sentences of analysis. If you are struggling with analysis, ask yourself, "why does this quote matter?" or "What does this example suggest about the theme?" or "So what?"

**Paragraph Three** develops your second example. You will use the same format as above. The only difference is that your topic sentence should also include a transition.

**Paragraph Four** is your conclusion. Conclusions are usually short. Be sure to include all of the following: restate your thesis, recap your examples, end with a universal statement. A universal statement is a general philosophical statement about your topic. For instance, "without loyalty, we all suffer. "