

Solutions

Each answer shows the steps, then the **result**.

2.1

- the logical sequence of claims that work together to defend the overarching thesis, communicated through commentary

2.2

- significance within a broader context; alternative interpretations; relevant analogies

2.3

(a)

- mentioning names the alternative; using it lets the alternative change how the claim is stated

(b)

- what the reading shows about how the novel works or about a problem it shares with other texts

3.1 A

- mentioned

3.2 A

- anchored to the argument

3.3

(a)

- using

(b)

- mid-essay the alternative can affect the claims that follow, whereas at the end it can only be noted after the argument is complete

3.4

- *Row A — Thesis (1)*. An interpretive claim about the **withholding**, not the plot. **Earns it:** “The novel’s refusal to say what happened is not evasion but the last move of its argument: having taught the reader to need the answer, it makes the wanting the subject.” **Does not:** “The ending is ambiguous, which makes the reader think.” *Row B — Evidence and Commentary (0–4)*. This task marks **sustained** reasoning, so a single insight repeated cannot reach 4. The strongest responses build: how the work manufactures the expectation, what it does to keep the expectation alive, what the last available piece of evidence is, and why supplying an answer would have cost the work something specific. Each stage needs its own textual evidence. An essay that argues the ending is meaningful and repeats that claim with three examples caps

at 3, however well written. *Row C — Sophistication (1)*. This is the row the task exists to teach, and it is rarely earned by decoration. It is earned by **complexity that survives**: reading the withholding against the possibility that it is a failure of nerve, and showing from the text why it is not; or situating the ending in a broader context the work has been building. A closing flourish about how “literature reflects life’s uncertainty” is the classic non-earning move