Writing Chunks



A chunk is the grouping of a concrete detail with two or more sentences of commentary that help to connect the concrete detail to the topic sentence of a body paragraph.

Concrete detail=CD Commentary=CM

A body paragraph should contain . . .

- a topic sentence TS
- ■two or more chunks
 - concrete detail CD
 - commentary CM
 - **■**commentary CM
- concluding sentence CS

- A topic sentence must be debatable and should not contain a concrete detail.
- A concrete detail is an example, a quotation, or a paraphrase from a text.

For example. . .

Commentary connects the concrete detail to the topic sentence. It is opinion. How does this detail show the validity of my topic sentence?

This shows that. . .

Brother is cruel to Doodle. For example, he makes Doodle touch his own coffin. He is mean to remind Doodle of death. He is also ashamed of Doodle and cannot help his feelings.

Though brother often shows love for Doodle, his cruel streak subconsciously goads him to torture his little brother. For example, after many attempts to leave Doodle behind, Brother takes him up to the barn loft and shows him his coffin, telling him, "Before I'll help you down. . . you're going to have to touch it" (302). He instinctively wants Doodle to know that even from the beginning, his family has always been prepared for him to die. Even Doodle's own fear has no effect on Brother as his sense of power over one younger and less able comes to fruition.

The fear that haunted Salem was something that was within everyone and led people to lie to save themselves or someone they love. For instance, after Betty got caught dancing in the forest, she put herself in a state of trance. Betty may have saved her life by doing that because she got a chance to see how the people of Salem would react before having to explain. Giving herself time to think of an explanation was smart, and in a way, it also gave her a chance to see if one of the other girls would come up with an excuse for her. On the other hand, Proctor feared what Hale would report to Danforth when he couldn't recite the Ten Commandments. Since Proctor has disobeyed one of the commandments, it is easy to forget that the commandment even exists. The strain to remember led to fear of being accused of witchcraft. Furthermore, Elizabeth, "a woman who never lied," lied to save Proctor's name in fear of losing him. She was willing to go against everything she stood for just to keep her husband alive. When Elizabeth was willing to risk her life for Proctor, she showed her renewed love for him. Fear can begin to take over a person and lead him to save himself or someone he loves.