

### **Step 6: Paragraphs of Support**

- Explain your responses from your thesis
- 5-8 sentences in each paragraph
- Your explanations must **FIT**

**Topic Sentence:** State the response from your thesis sentence

**Supporting Details:** Make your explanations **FIT**

**Fact:** **Evidence** from the **text**; explicit textual information; stated directly from the text; must use quotes

**Inference:** **Implicit** information from the text; **explain your inference**

**Thinking:** **Analysis-** explain your thinking; **why did you make the inference**

**Concluding Sentence:** Restate the topic sentence.

**Prompt:** In the novel, the topic of friendship is explored. Write an essay analyzing the character traits that make Billy a good friend. Use evidence from the novel to support your response. (Text: Where the Red Fern Grows by Wilson Rawls)

#### **Introduction Paragraph:**

The novel Where the Red Fern Grows by Wilson Rawls explores the idea of friendship. The character traits that make Billy a good friend are loyalty, bravery, and selflessness.

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Paragraph of Support:**

The first character trait that makes Billy a good friend is loyalty. In the story, the narrator explains, "There in the flinty hills of the Ozarks, I fought for the lives of my dogs. I fought with the only weapon I had, the sharp cutting blade of a double-bitted ax." This proves that Billy is loyal to his dogs because he could have easily backed down from the fight, and had his dogs fight the battle themselves so he would not get hurt. A loyal friend is someone who doesn't leave you in hard times, and Billy proves that he is loyal to his dogs. Loyalty is a character trait that makes Billy a good friend.

**Facts: Evidence from Text**

- You must use **DIRECT QUOTES** from the text.
- **DIRECT QUOTES** must be **COMPLETE SENTENCES**.

1. Use quotation marks.
2. Begin with sentence starters such as:

The author stated, "..."

The text states, "..."

For example, the author says, "..."

According to the text, "..."

On page \_\_\_\_, it said, "..."

The article (name of article) states, "..."

In the story, the narrator explains, "..."

**Example:** In the story, the narrator explains, "There in the flinty hills of the Ozarks, I fought for the lives of my dogs. I fought with the only weapon I had, the sharp cutting blade of a double-bitted ax."

**Inference: Explain Your Inference**

- Explain how the quote supports your inference.
- Begin with sentence starters such as:

This shows ...

This means ...

This reveals ...

This illustration ...

This proves...

**Example:** This proves that Billy is loyal to his dogs because he could have easily backed down from the fight, and had his dogs fight the battle themselves so he would not get hurt.