**Questions for analyzing fiction**

* **What happens in the story?** For yourself, summarize the plot (the gist of the happenings). Think about what your summary *leaves out.*
* **Is the story told in chronological order, or are there flashbacks or flashforwards?** On rereading, what foreshadowing (hints of what isto come) do you detect?
* **What conflicts does the work include?**
* **How does the writer develop characters?** Are the characters revealed by explicit comment or through action? With which character(s) do you sympathize? Are the characters plausible? What motivates them? What do minor characters contribute to the work?
* **Who tells the story?** Is the narrator a character, or does the narrator stand entirely outside the characters’ world? What does the narrator’s point of view contribute to the story’s theme?
* **What is the setting?** What do the time and place of the action contribute to the work?
* **Are certain characters, settings, or actions symbolic?** Do they stand for something in addition to themselves?
* **What are the themes?** That is, what does the work add up to? Do the themes reinforce your values, or do they challenge them?
* **Is the title informative?** Did its meaning change for you after you read the work?