

# The Interlopers

By: Saki

## Literary Paragraphs:

A literary paragraph usually describes or explores one aspect of a single story or poem. It follows a basic structure and can be written the same way every time.

**Structure:** a literary paragraph can be broken up into 4 sections – each section is usually between 1 and 3 sentences each.

*First Section:* Introduction – Author, Story, Summary

*Second Section:* Thesis – your argument/what you are going to talk about – this sentence answers the prompt.

*Third Section:* Support – explaining and passages (quotes) from the story. You should try to have 2 really good passages.

*Fourth Section:* Conclusion.

Example:      **Discuss the most important symbol in “The Interlopers.”**

“The Interlopers” by Saki is about two men fighting over a useless strip of land. There are a number of symbols in this story. The most important symbol is a wine flask which represents peace. At the beginning of the story, two landowners are hunting each other with guns. Each has “hate in his heart and murder uppermost in his mind.” Before long, the two enemies are trapped underneath a giant beech tree. At this point the two men still want death for their enemy. After struggling for a period of time, one of the men offers a flask of wine to the other as a sign of hope and companionship. This action eventually ends the feud and brings peace to the two former enemies. Clearly, the flask of wine symbolizes peace and friendship.

## **How do I know the paragraph is a good one?**

After reading the paragraph ask yourself these questions:

1. Do you know what the story is about?
2. Do you have a clear understanding of a major symbol?
3. Would the paragraph ruin the story for those who haven't read it?

If you answered yes to all of the questions above, the literary paragraph is AWESOME.

Use this class paragraph, as an example for all future literary paragraphs.

## **Homework:**

- *Read "The Snob"*
- *Answer the multiple choice questions at the end of the story*
- *Complete the written response about who you think is the REAL snob. Post it on your website under the "short stories" tab.*
- *On Thursday, we will discuss theme, symbol, and irony in the story. You will then write your own literary paragraph in class and hand it in by the bell.*