Keyhole Development for Theme # 1

In the first and fifth paragraphs of your character analysis of a character from Red Sky at Morning, you must follow a certain format. In the next theme you will learn how to use a different format.

The first and last paragraphs are often the most difficult to write. Getting started is perhaps the most challenging part of a composition. The keyhole method offers a technique that will help you begin your theme. The final, or fifth, paragraph must also follow a prescribed form according to the keyhole method.

The keyhole method is named because the type of development resembles a keyhole.

\[ \begin{array}{c}
\text{First paragraph} \\
\text{Body paragraphs} \\
\text{5th paragraph} \\
\end{array} \]

First paragraph

You will begin this paragraph with an “opening generalization” about your focus, which in this paper is change. This first sentence should be something like “All people experience change” or “Everybody changes.” Make the generalization as broad as possible. The remainder of the paragraph will provide examples that gradually narrow to your thesis, which must be the final sentence in the first paragraph. The narrowing examples should include terms such as some, a few, a teenager, etc., and you will offer general examples for each of these steps before you present your thesis. Each part of the generalization must be narrowed; the group diminishes to “a person” or “a teenager” while the change becomes more specific (“matures because of additional responsibilities” or “experiences a dramatic event”). Do not make reference to the novel or to your character until the thesis.

Body paragraphs

The body of your theme will present information that proves your thesis. Roman numerals II-IV contain these details. Each subtopic must be presented, explained, and proved.
(PEP) Proof can include examples, details, or quotations from the novel. Aim to develop each paragraph smoothly, following your outline carefully. Remember the importance of a strong topic sentence and conclusion.

*Fifth paragraph*

In the final paragraph, you will begin with a thesis restatement. This sentence is NOT a mere repetition of your thesis; rather, it is a re-wording of the thesis to remind your reader of your main idea. After this restatement, you will offer an analogy with explanation. An analogy is a comparison. You can introduce this analogy by writing, “Another character who undergoes a similar transformation is ..., who appears in _______ by ______.” Then you will need at least a sentence to explain what the similarities are between these two characters. Your choice of analogy can be a parallel to another work of literature, a story, a movie, a television program, or a figure from history. Do not choose someone you know. Keep in mind that the choice of analogy should offer more similarities than differences. Ideally, the character will have changed in a way similar to your character’s change.