

Name:  
Date:

Period:  
Ms. Lopez

## Text Analysis Response

### Your Task:

Closely read the text provided and write a well-developed, text-based response of two to three paragraphs. In your response, identify a central idea in the text and analyze how the author's use of **one** writing strategy (literary element or literary technique or rhetorical device) develops this central idea. Use strong and thorough evidence from the text to support your analysis. Do **not** simply summarize the text. You may write on the text and use the margins to take notes as you read and scrap paper to plan your response.

### Guidelines:

#### Be sure to:

- Identify a central idea in the text
- Analyze how the author's use of **one** writing strategy (literary element or literary technique or rhetorical device) develops this central idea. Examples include: characterization, conflict, denotation/connotation, metaphor, simile, irony, language use, point-of-view, setting, structure, symbolism, theme, tone, etc.
- Use strong and thorough evidence from the text to support your analysis
- Organize your ideas in a cohesive and coherent manner
- Maintain a formal style of writing
- Follow the conventions of standard written English

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### Excerpts from Jonathan Edwards' sermon "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God" (1741)

...There is no want<sup>1</sup> of power in God to cast wicked men into hell at any moment. Men's hands can't be strong when God rises up: The strongest have no power to resist him, nor can any deliver out of his hands.

...He is not only able to cast wicked men into hell, but he can most easily do it.

- 5 Sometimes an earthly prince meets with a great deal of difficulty to subdue<sup>2</sup> a rebel, that has found means to fortify<sup>3</sup> himself, and has made himself strong by the numbers of his followers. But it is not so with God. There is no fortress<sup>4</sup> that is any defence from the power of God. Tho' hand join in hand, and vast multitudes of God's enemies combine

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1 want - lack

2. subdue - control; discipline

3. fortify - strengthen in defense

4. fortress - defense; stronghold

10 and associate themselves, they are easily broken in pieces: They are as great heaps of  
light chaff<sup>5</sup> before the whirlwind; or large quantities of dry stubble before devouring  
flames. We find it easy to tread on and crush a worm that we see crawling on the earth;  
so 'tis easy for us to cut or singe a slender thread that any thing hangs by; thus easy is  
it for God when he pleases to cast his enemies down to hell. What are we that we  
15 should think to stand before him, at whose rebuke<sup>6</sup> the earth trembles, and before  
whom the rocks are thrown down?

...They *deserve* to be cast into hell; so that divine justice never stands in the way, it  
makes no objection against God's using his power at any moment to destroy them. Yea,  
on the contrary, justice calls aloud for an infinite punishment of their sins. Divine justice  
says of the tree that brings forth such grapes of Sodom, *Cut it down, why cumbereth it*  
20 *the ground*, Luke 13:7. The sword of divine justice is every moment brandished over  
their heads, and 'tis nothing but the hand of arbitrary<sup>7</sup> mercy, and God's mere will, that  
holds it back.

...This that you have heard is the case of everyone of you that are out of Christ. That  
world of misery, that lake of burning brimstone<sup>8</sup> is extended abroad under you. *There* is  
25 the dreadful pit of the glowing flames of the wrath<sup>9</sup> of God; there is hell's wide gaping  
mouth open; and you have nothing to stand upon, nor any thing to take hold of: there is  
nothing between you and hell but the air; 'tis only the power and mere pleasure of God  
that holds you up...

...You probably are not sensible<sup>10</sup> of this; you find you are kept out of hell, but don't see  
30 the hand of God in it, but look at other things, as the good state of your bodily  
constitution<sup>11</sup>, your care of your own life, and the means you use for your own  
preservation...

...Your wickedness makes you as it were heavy as lead, and to tend downwards with  
great weight and pressure towards hell; and if God should let you go, you would  
35 immediately sink and swiftly descend and plunge into the bottomless gulf, and your  
healthy constitution, and your own care and prudence, and best contrivance, and all  
your righteousness, would have no more influence to uphold you and keep you out of  
hell, than a spider's web would have to stop a falling rock. Were it not that so is the

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5. chaff - worthless chopped hay and straw

6. rebuke - to scold; to reprimand

7. arbitrary - random; chance

8. brimstone - an outdated synonym for sulfur, which was thought to be part of the  
torturous environment in hell. Thus the phrase 'fire and brimstone.'

9. wrath - anger; rage; fury

10. sensible - aware; conscious

11. constitution - physical nature or character of the boy in regard to healthiness,  
strength, vitality, etc.

40 sovereign pleasure of God, the earth would not bear you one moment; for you are a burden to it...

...The God that holds you over the pit of hell, much as one holds a spider, or some loathsome insect, over the fire, abhors<sup>12</sup> you, and is dreadfully provoked<sup>13</sup>; his wrath towards you burns like fire; he looks upon you as worthy of nothing else, but to be cast into the fire; he is of purer eyes than to bear to have you in his sight; you are ten  
45 thousand times so abominable<sup>14</sup> in his eyes as the most hateful venomous serpent is in ours. You have offended him infinitely more than ever a stubborn rebel did his prince; and yet 'tis nothing but his hand that holds you from falling into the fire every moment; 'tis to be ascribed<sup>15</sup> to nothing else, that you did not go to hell the last night; that you  
50 was suffered to awake again in this world, after you closed your eyes to sleep: and there is no other reason to be given why you have not dropped into hell since you arose in the morning, but that God's hand has held you up...

... And now you have an extraordinary opportunity, a day wherein<sup>16</sup> Christ has flung the door of mercy wide open, and stands in the door calling and crying with a loud voice to poor sinners; a day wherein many are flocking to him, and pressing into the kingdom of  
55 God; many are daily coming from the east, west, north and south; many that were very lately in the same miserable condition that you are in, are now in a happy state, with their hearts filled with love to him that has loved them and washed them from their sins in his own blood, and rejoicing in hope of the glory of God. How awful is it to be left behind at such a day! To see so many others feasting, while you are pining and  
60 perishing! To see so many rejoicing and singing for joy of heart, while you have cause to mourn for sorrow of heart, and howl for vexation<sup>17</sup> of spirit! How can you rest one moment in such a condition? Are not your souls as precious as the souls of the people at Suffield<sup>18</sup>, where they are flocking from day to day to Christ?

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12. abhors - hates; loathes; despises

13. provoked - angered, enraged, irritated, exasperated (OED)

14. abominable - detestable, horrid, loathsome

15. ascribed - attributed

16. wherein - in which

17. vexation - frustration; irritation

18. Suffield - town near Edwards' parish of Northampton, Massachusetts