



## FORMAL ANALYSIS EXAMPLE

In 2013 Andrea Kowch created "Dream Chaser" with acrylic on canvas. This piece is 48"x60" and has a vast amount of detail. In this work the viewers see a redheaded young women running towards them and away from a large, flat red barn. A grey dog is seen bounding after her through what seems to be a wheat field. There are also three black, looming birds at the top right hand side of the barn and grey-green storming sky.

The girl and the barn are fighting to be the main **focal point** of the piece. The girl's face stands out in comparison to the barn because it is so pale; almost sickly. Whereas the barn is covering almost the entire top half of the painting. It is a bright red **color** and stand out because it is the only object with the red. Also, it is flat, isolated, and centered on the canvas, which gives it a dark, ominous feeling. This struggle of the focal point keeps the viewers looking back and forth between the two.

Many elements and principles of art are found within this piece. One of the most apparent being **lines**. The first line the audience sees is the horizon line. This line makes the **space** very flat and open. Also, we see a **harmony** and **rhythm** of parallel lines in the siding of the barn, the tracks in and position of the wheat, and the dog's body. **Shapes** in this work consist of both geometric and organic. Organic shapes being the most evident; the girl, dog, birds, and wheat. The only geometric shape found is the barn, which repeats squares in the windows and lines in the siding of the barn. There is also a contrast between the round face and rigid barn. Other contrasts include the colors used in this painting. Colors found in one section are seen again as highlights or shadows in other parts to tie everything together. This piece has varying warm colors, but the feel of the painting is cool. There are strong reds and yellows, however other colors are low intensity.

**Texture** is very apparent in "Dream Chaser"; the girl's hair, apron, and other clothing all have a distinct feel to them. Also, the grass/wheat was painted with short, sharp strokes which give a prickly, dry look to it. The girl's smooth face and soft jacket verses the dry wheat give the viewer another contrast as well. The space of the canvas is filled up in such a way that it keeps the audience's eyes roaming. There is very little overlapping, which helps us view the piece with depth.

Principles found within the painting include balance, proportion, harmony, variety, and eye movement. The **balance** of the work is asymmetrical, yet still has symmetry due to the way the space is filled. **Proportion** is realistic in comparison to the girl and barn. The dog may be painted smaller between the girl and barn to show depth and how big the barn really is. The harmony of this piece includes how everything ties into each other; the colors, parallel lines, and repeating shapes. On the other hand, lots of **variety** can be found with closer scrutiny. Different parts of the painting are separated by color, contrasts of texture, and the top and bottom of the piece is divided by geometric and organic shapes. The eye movement travels from the barn to the girl, through her left, curved arm, up to the dog, back to the barn, and up to the right hand side to the curious birds in the sky.

The black birds in the storming sky along with the looming barn may suggest that there was trouble there and give the girl motive to run away. Because the painting is titled "Dream Chaser", it might imply that the girl is leaving home to chase after her dreams for her life, which gives the work a Midwest feel to it. Also, the dog chasing after her may bring to mind that she can't escape from the barn. On the contrary, the girl's curved arm towards the dog and barn may be a dismissing action.

Many parts of the piece are effective in bring the feel of what is happening in the painting to the viewers. Repeated use of lines and shapes helps tie everything together. Similarly, the subtle use of reflections of colors and texture, do the same. One small weakness there might be is the unrealistic ness of the dog. The barn, girl, birds, and ground all seem realistic, whereas the dog does not and pulls away from the reality of the painting. Overall, "Dream Chaser" by Kowch makes the viewer feel emotion and connects each part of the work, no matter how different they may be.

### Introduction

Includes "Title", Artist, Size, Media, Date, and a Brief, informative description of the Artwork.

### Body

Use vivid details to describe the artwork. Take the reader throughout the piece. You may want to begin with the focal point. As you describe, explain how the artist uses **Elements and Principles**.

### Interpretation

Use visual evidence to **SUGGEST** what the work means. Use specific details to back up your ideas. This is **NOT** your personal opinion.

### Judgment

Look at eh way the artist uses Elements and Principles of Art. What are the strengths/weaknesses? Use visual evidence to support your judgment. **USE THIS PARAGRAPH AS A CLOSING ALSO.**