How to analyse a text or a film

1) Characters

Protagonist: leading character.
Antagonist: character, group of characters, or institution that represents the opposition against which the protagonist must contend.
Focal: character that has a decisive role, but does not have to be the protagonist.
Minor character: character that is not essential to the story.
Characterisation: ways in which character is portrayed, including physical appearance and personality.

2) Key themes / issues
Why was it written / made?
What was the purpose of it?
Is there a moral in the story?

3) Social and cultural settings

Historical: historical period or periods that is portrayed in the story, as well as the moment in history when the text or film was made and its impact on it.
Cultural: elements of the society that is present in the text or film, either in an implicit or explicit way.
Geographical: place or places where the story takes place.
Time: flash-back, flash-forward or ellipsis.
Author's biographical information: this can have an effect on the story.

4) Styles / techniques used

Linguistic elements: autobiography, description, narration, dialogue, monologues.
Plot: foreshadowing, suspense, conflict, exposition, rising action, crisis, resolution.
Point of view: narrator, 1st person, 2nd person, 3rd person (objective), omniscient.

5) Styles / techniques in a text

● **Genre:** drama, romance, satire, tragedy, comedy, tragicomedy, fiction and nonfiction.
● **Choice of language**: verbs and tenses, adjectives and nouns.
● **Syntax**: structure of the text, types of sentences and punctuation.
● **Imagery**: use of elements to create a mental picture using visual and other senses

Styles / techniques in a film

Genre: action, adventure, comedy, crime and gangster, documentary, drama, epics, historical, horror, musicals, dance, science fiction, war and westerns.
● **Visual elements:** images, shapes, lines, colours, use of the camera, light and shot transitions.
● **Audio elements:** words, sound effects, silences, music and accents.