Name_____

The Shadow Analytical Essay
A Wizard of Earthsea

Ged has no clue,
what to do--
he's being pursued,
by a big scary shady dude

--from "The Song of Sparrowhawk" (remix edition)

Students have investigated the character / motif / symbol of the Shadow in Ursula Le Guin's *A Wizard of Earthsea,* and students have written a "practice paragraph" investigating one specific aspect about the shadow in one chapter of the novel. The next logical step is to take these ideas and develop them into a complete analytical essay that argues your ideas and sheds some light--so to speak--on this characteristically shady figure.

Essay Prompt

What are three ways that the the shadow functions in *The Wizard of Earthsea*, and how do these relate to a central theme in the novel?

Essay Organization

Your essay will have five paragraphs, which will include an introduction, three body paragraphs, and a conclusion.

An **Introduction** that:
1. Grabs and hooks the reader's attention
2. Introduces the book, author and your essay topic
3. Concludes with a *Thesis Statement* that shows what you are going to argue in the limited space of your essay.

Three juicy **Hamburger Body Paragraphs** that have (*see your class file page at MrQuale.com for a more detailed Hamburger Paragraph guideline*):
1. Topic Sentences
2. Supporting Details
3. Concluding Sentences

A **Conclusion** that:
1. Concludes by showing what you have proven
2. Gives the reader a delicious, tasty, thoughtful morsel to chew on
3. Answers at least one of these questions:
   a. Now that you have proven your argument with specifics, where do we go from here?
   b. What can we do with this idea?
   c. Can we look at this topic / argument in a new light, based on what you have just proven?

Characteristics of a strong analytical essay:
- Written in the Literary Present Tense
- Organized with body paragraphs using the hamburger model
- Quotations from the text are used as proof and support of your claims, and are effectively integrated into sentences.
- An analysis of these quotations by investigating the language
- MLA Formatted (with a Work Cited page)

Earthsea Quotation Integration Practice

In the spaces provided below, revise and integrate the following examples into clear and efficient sentences, formatted according to MLA. Some guidelines:

- *Try to rewrite the sentences without using the words "quotation" or "quote"*
- *Try to determine who is speaking or thinking or narrating*
- *Don't forget your commas and full stops*

1. The quotation cites "I cannot see your way. It is all in darkness." (page #80))

2. The quote from the book saying "the evil thing, the shadow that hunts me, has not more (52)" shows that Ged is uncertain about the unknown.

3. 'He must run as the dragon had said, but where'? (pg. 58), Ged is trying to run from the Shadow, but it seems impossible because the shadow is his conscience always following him.