

New Criticism Question Prompt:

What's the purpose of New Criticism? As an analytical tool, how does it help us understand literature better, and what exactly does it help us understand? What are we supposed to examine and talk about when we analyze a poem or a piece of literature as New Critics? What does Lynn mean when he says, as New Critics do, that a poem or a work of literature "should be seen as an object of an extraordinary and somewhat mysterious kind, a silent object ... that is unchanging, existing somehow both within and outside of time" (49, 50)?

Reference specific passages to help you address these questions, and be specific in your answers.