

Heart of Darkness textual analysis

1. literal level

What's going on?

2. close-reading level

imagery, figurative language, detail, syntax, motif, repetition

3. interpretive level

meaning, theme, character development, tone

4. synthesis level

intertextuality, allusion, cultural connections, philosophical ideas

Heart of Darkness chapter 1

- pages 16-18 (“Next day I left that station at last” to “that, and the repairs when I brought the pieces to the station, took some months.”)
- pages 19-21 (“He began to speak as soon as he saw me.” to “But there is a way of looking at a halter that would provoke the most charitable of saints into a kick.”)
- pages 21-22 (“I had no idea why he wanted to be sociable” to “‘When Mr. Kurtz,’ I continued, severely, ‘is General Manager, you won’t have the opportunity.’”)
- pages 23-24 (“I let him run on” to “in the heavy night air of the river.”)
- pages 25-27 (“He was becoming confidential now” to “‘he would set about his work when there.’”)