Thesis Practice for “Spring in the Classroom” AP Lit prompt

Prompt – *Perrine’s* p. 731, “Spring” – pp. 723-24.

To what extent does each of the following thesis statements meet the expectation of the prompt?

Annotate and be prepared to discuss these on Monday/Tuesday.

Read “Spring in the classroom” carefully, paying close attention to Mary Oliver’s characterization of the teacher and her students. Write an essay in which you analyze these character portraits, showing how such literary elements as figurative language, tone, and hyperbole contribute to meaning.

1. The teacher, Miss Willow Bangs, can initially be seen as unenthusiastic and dull while her students are eager to cure their spring fever.

2. In her poem “Spring in the Classroom,” poet Mary Oliver utilizes literary techniques including tone, figurative language, and punctuation to describe a group of restless students longing to escape the classroom and explore the beauty of springtime, held back by their equally listless teacher.

3. The students go from longing to explore nature to hating their teacher and Oliver uses this shift in perspective to demonstrate how restraining one’s desires can transform love into hate.

4. Figurative language such as juxtaposition, metaphor, simile, hyperbole, and tone all contribute to character portraits within this poem.

5. In the poem, “Spring in the Classroom,” Mary Oliver characterizes students and their teacher using hyperbole, simile, and metaphor in order to paint a dark picture of what is ironically considered the most light and lively season.

6. The speaker’s narration in Mary Oliver’s “Spring in the Classroom” portrays the apathetic teacher as an added oppressive presence onto the supplementary confines of the classroom, restricting her students’ internal ambitions, using the elements of figurative language, tone, and hyperbole to convey the teacher and students’ complexities with nature.

7. By juxtaposing the teacher and her students and characterizing them as highly different people, she reveals the three-dimensionality of humans and the human tendency to judge the characters of others by their surfaces.

8. Oliver conveys the complexity of people’s blossoming through the character contrast between the energetic, restless students and the stern, seemingly apathetic teacher, advising to attempt analysis and empathy before making judgments.