

Novel Study

Character Development

All the characters play a part in the story. **Major characters** play a **very important** part. **Minor characters** play **less important** parts.

- List every character in the novel. For each one, explain why they are major or minor characters, in your opinion.
- Pick your favourite two characters. For each of them, write five adjectives that you feel describe them well. Beside each adjective, write a synonym and an antonym.

Plot

There are six main kinds of conflict or problem to be found in a story – 1. **Person vs. person**, 2. **Person vs. self**, 3. **Person vs. animal**, 4. **Person vs. nature**, 5. **Person vs. the supernatural**, 6. **Person vs. society**.

- State which problem type best fits the story you read. Be sure to give the reason(s) for your choice.
- Summarize the main events in each chapter. Use no more than two or three sentences for each chapter.
- Choose an event in the story that you would like to change. Rewrite the event and explain how this would affect the outcome of the story.

Setting

- Think of a different setting for your novel. Describe this setting and elucidate exactly how you think it would affect the events that occur in the novel.
- Make a full page map, in colour, to show the most important places from your book. Be sure to label your map neatly.

Your Choice

Pick any **two** of the following to complete your assignment.

- Interview everyone else who read the same book. Survey them for: 1. Favourite character, and 2. Favourite event. #'s 3, 4, and 5 are to be questions you think of by yourself. Present your results in a graph that you have created using Excel.
- Use the melody from a song or rap you already know. Rewrite the lyrics so that they are about the book you read, and will NOT be offensive to anyone else. **BE READY TO PERFORM YOUR COMPOSITION.**
- Originate a piece of art that shows your feelings about the plot or one of the characters. How will you entitle it? In what manner will you present it?
- Create your own newspaper article about the novel. Be sure your headline will “sell” your newspaper.
- Find a current newspaper or magazine article about a problem similar to the one in the book you read. Include it in your report, remembering to present it in an interesting way. Detail the reason why you chose to include the article and explain how you feel it relates to the book you read.

Teachers' Note: **Novel Study**

Do you have to do a novel study with your class this year? The above assignment is a great one with which to start the New Year. Get the students divided into groups, large or small, and assign a different novel to each group. This allows for comparison of results; peer tutoring for reading and assignment completion; and easier evaluation for you, since you would only need to familiarize yourself with a few plot lines. Use your language arts time two or three days a week (or every day, for quicker completion) and the class can more or less conduct itself. At the end of the first assignment, switch novels and repeat the assignment, or consider allowing each student to work with a different novel of their own choosing. Set the condition that the "Your Choice" section must be done with different choices than the student used for the first novel. By the time the class is into their second time around, they'll be "old pros", and can really take over responsibility for their own learning.

Have a day or two set aside for students to share their choices from the free choice section. The artists and performers in your class can really get involved in the presentations, especially if any of them are interested in taking their presentations to other classes in the school. The results of this novel study make often make great visuals for Education Week, or Parents' Night, whichever is appropriate to your school.