

Independent Reading Guide: The Novel

Name _____ Date _____

Directions to the Student: Use the questions below to clarify your understanding of and response to a novel. Reflect on each question before answering. If you are keeping a *Reader's Response Journal* or wish to start one, use one of the suggested activities to make an entry.

Novel Title _____ Author _____

This novel was (circle one) assigned a personal selection.

This novel was found in the (circle one) textbook library other _____.

Elements of the Novel

1. Who is the protagonist—the main character—in the novel?

2. What kind of person is the protagonist? _____
3. What evidence in the novel leads me to this opinion of the protagonist?

4. What challenge or conflict does the protagonist encounter? _____

5. How is the conflict resolved? _____
6. What other important characters are involved in the conflict? _____

7. What is the setting of this novel? _____
8. Who tells the story—one of the characters or an outside observer? _____
9. What event do I consider to be the climax of the novel? _____

10. How would I describe the mood? How does the author establish that mood? _____
11. Summarize the theme or central idea of this novel. _____

12. Is there a sentence or short passage that states or strongly implies the theme?
If so, what is it? _____
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Response to the Novel

Rate this novel by circling the appropriate word.

- | | | | |
|---|------|------|--------|
| 13. The characters and dialogue are believable. | weak | fair | strong |
| 14. The plot engages my interest. | weak | fair | strong |
| 15. This novel is written in a style that is clear and interesting. | weak | fair | strong |
| 16. The details in this novel add to its appeal. | weak | fair | strong |
| 17. Overall, I rate this novel as | weak | fair | strong |

Reasons for my rating: _____

18. What predictions and questions occurred to me as I read this story? Were my predictions accurate? Were my questions answered?
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Reader's Response Journal

- Is there a character in this novel that you have strong feelings about? Explain the feelings. Does this character remind you of someone you know? If so, in what way? Did your feelings about this character change as the story progressed?
- Is there one event in this novel that was surprising or confusing? If so, write a brief paragraph to the author expressing your thoughts.