

Individual Homework Options List

1. Character Biography

Take a character from the novel and put him/her into modern-day San Diego. Write a biography about his/her life in this city. Address questions such as: Where would this character work? Where would he/she live? What would he/she do for fun? Come up with your own questions. (Minimum one full page typed, double space)

2. Character Card

Using a 5" x 7" card, draw a picture or paste a magazine photograph that resembles a character you have chosen from the novel. On the other side of the card, make a list of the characteristics and traits of that character. Include the following aspects as well as some of your own ideas:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| A. Name and nickname (if applicable) | G. Physical characteristics |
| B. Occupation | - eye color |
| C. Quotable phrase | - height |
| D. Hobbies / Interests | - hair color |
| E. Short and Long-Term Goal | - weight |
| F. Romantic Interest | |

3. Character Connection

In the novel, which character do you relate to most? Why? What characteristics do you share? What differences? Type a one page paper addressing these questions and any others that you feel are important in comparing you and your chosen character. (Minimum one full page typed, double space)

4. Character Letter

Type a letter from one character in the novel to another. Take the perspective that five years have passed. How have the lives of each character changed? Give an idea about the present lives of both characters. It may be helpful to begin: "Thank you for your letter!" and include what the previous letter said as well as new information from the character writing this letter. (Minimum one full page typed, double space)

5. Character Photo

Look through magazines and find photos that represent four different characters in the novel you are reading. Paste each picture on a piece of paper and write one paragraph for each, explaining why you chose that picture, how it resembles or fits the character, and what it shows/tells about the character.

11. Found Poem

Look back at the text you've read and select eight luminous words or phrases (not entire sentences) that you feel best communicate the essence of your reading. Incorporate these eight words or phrases into an original poem. Edit for errors and re-write on nice stationary paper or draw pictures to reflect the essence of the poem.

12. Ladder of Responsibility ***

Consider the conflicts or problems that are developing in your novel. Who is most responsible for these problems? Who is least responsible? Use the handout entitled "Ladder of Responsibility" to rank the characters from *most* to *least* responsible. Be sure to complete the two questions at the bottom of the sheet.

13. New Ending

Change the ending of the novel. This is your opportunity to make the book end how you wanted it to end. As you write your ending, be sure to mimic the style of the author. (Minimum one full page typed, double space)

14. One Pager

On a 9" x 11" white sheet of paper, capture the essence of your reading by visually demonstrating the ideas, connections, and images that the reading has inspired in your mind. Completely fill the blank sheet with these ideas, images, quotes, and connections. You should use color to accentuate your ideas. Magazine collages can also help add to the ideas that you are trying to get across. Remember that a One-Pager is your expression of how you interacted with your reading. When looking back at your One-Pager, you should be able to remember what was going on during that portion of the novel and how you felt. Include page numbers for the section of the novel that the One-Pager covers.

15. Open Mind ***

Complete the "Open Mind" sheet. Write the name of your character at the top of the paper. Completely fill the outline of the character's head, with colorful symbols, pictures, words, phrases, and quotes from the text. Visually illustrate what the character is thinking about, what his/her priorities are, or how the character perceives him/herself.

16. Post-It® Notes

Take notes on the section you are reading using Post-It® notes. As you read, write down on a Post-It® note anything that catches your attention or that you think might be important. Paste this into the book next to the passage. You might want to color code your notes: yellow for characters, pink for plot, green for theme, etc. *For credit, bring your book to Mr. Farris during group discussion time and be prepared to spend a few minutes explaining your notes* (Minimum ten notes).

17. Put Yourself in the Novel

Imagine yourself living among the characters in the novel. You are an additional character in the book. Type a one-page paper explaining the role that you would play in the story. Who would you befriend? Why? Which character would you date or marry? Why? How would you cope in the setting of the novel? What twists would your presence add to the plot? What insights would your character bring to the reader's overall interpretation of the novel?

18. Reflective Journal

Complete a "Reflective Journal" for the reading you have completed for homework.

Write a complete paragraph for each of the following categories:

- What I read
- What I learned
- What questions do I still have? What surprises did I experience?
- Overall response

19. Setting Collage

Using pictures from magazines, make a collage of one of the main settings in the novel (travel magazines and magazines such as "Better Homes and Gardens" work well). Make sure the pictures resemble the descriptions of the setting in the novel. Your collage should include three to five quotes from the novel that describe the setting (include page numbers).

20. Shrink Lit***

A shrink lit is a poetic encapsulation of a novel. It should include elements of the main character, plot details, themes, symbols, and conflicts. In other words, it captures the essence of the novel in four or five short, rhyming stanzas. See the "Shrink Lit" handout for details and examples.

21. Timeline

Choose 6-10 major events that occur in the reading you have completed. Place these events in order of appearance in the novel, or in chronological order. Plot the events on a timeline as you would for a history class, labeling the axes for clarification. Draw pictures or symbols to represent these events.

***** Please obtain handout for this assignment.**