

Guidelines for Studying the Novel

You will be able to choose from a list of options in order to fulfill the "study" portion of your Novel Study. Here are your guidelines:

- Each choice is worth a specified number of marks.
- You must choose enough activities to *total 120 marks*.
- You must choose at least one activity worth 40 marks or more.
- You must choose at least one activity from each category.

Category 1: Characterization

- Comparing Two Literary Characters (5 marks)
- Character Sketch (40 marks)
- Characterization Questions (10 marks)
- Character (5 marks)
- Characterization Qualities (5 marks)
- Qualities of a Character (5 marks)
- Understanding Characters (10 marks)
- Diary Entry (20 marks)
- Character Song or Poem (40 marks)
- Character's Wardrobe (25 marks)
- Character's Elementary School Report Card (40 marks)
- Character Signature (5 marks)
- Characterization Chart (20 marks)

Category 2: Setting

- Map of Setting (25 marks)
- 3-D Model of Setting (40 marks)
- Drawing of Setting (25 marks)
- Word Collage (20 marks)

Category 3: Plot

- Plot Diagram (30 marks)
- Cartoon of Events (30 marks)
- Song or Poem of Events (40 points)
- Puppet Play (50 points)
- News Editorial (30 marks)
- Mime Activity (30 points)
- Scene Presentation (40 marks)
- Retelling and Predicting (*must be completed while reading the novel!*) (30 marks)

Category 4: Theme

- Theme Questions (15 marks)
- Journal Entry/Response (20 marks)
- Photo Essay (40 marks)
- Collage (30 marks)

Category 5: Personal Reactions

- Response Log entry (15 marks)
- Personal Reactions Questions (5 marks)
- Graffiti Board (20 marks)

Category 6: Summative and Extension Activities

- Postcard Adventure (40 marks)
- Design a Book Jacket (40 marks)
- Book Review/Critique (30 marks)
- Promotional T-shirt (30 marks)
- Commercial or Advertisement (40 marks)
- Dramatization of a scene (50 marks)

Novel Study Activity Record for _____

Category:	Activity:	Grade/Comments:
1. Characterization		
2. Setting		
3. Plot		
4. Theme		
5. Personal Reaction		
6. Summative and Extension		

Category #1: CHARACTERIZATION

Comparing Two Literary Characters

5 marks

When you compare two literary characters, you can learn quite a bit about how human beings behave in a variety of situations. The chart below will help you to make decisions about the similarities or differences between the literary characters you meet.

	Character 1	Character 2
Physical Appearance		
Personality		
Life Experiences		
Actions and behaviour		
Manner of speaking		
Thoughts and feelings		
Relationships with others		
Motivation—what the character wants		
How the character changes		

Now that you've thought about the characters, answer the following questions. (Record your answers to these questions on the back of the page)

1. In what one way are the two characters most alike? ...most different?
Which character would you prefer to meet? Why?



Characterization Qs

10 marks

Answer the following questions in full sentences.

1. What did the main character do to make you like or dislike him/her?
2. What is one color that describes the main character and why?
3. What can you say about the main character's family life?
4. Where can you find an example of a problem the character had that you also have faced in your life?
5. How is the role of the supporting character(s) important to the story?
6. How did the character change/grow from the beginning to the end?
7. Why is the main character like or unlike you?
8. Who did the character go to for support and understanding?
9. What would happen if the main character were of the opposite sex or another species?
10. What might the main character have done in the beginning to change the outcome of the story?
11. What will happen to the character in a sequel to the book?
12. Where will the main character be 20 years from now?
13. Who might be able to replace the main character from your favorite animated show?
14. How might you describe the character to a blind person?
15. Why would you want to be or not be the character's friend?
16. How would the character(s) be different if the type of literature was fiction or nonfiction?

Understanding Characters 10 marks

Who are the characters in the story?

What are these characters like?

Is there a common problem that all of the characters must face?

Do the characters fall into particular groups? Are these groups against one another?

Is one of the characters the main character, or are there several main characters?

Do the characters change or grow as individuals, or are they alike throughout the story?

If the characters change, is there a good reason for their change? If so, what is it?

If there are any minor characters, what is their purpose in the story? ...to help move the plot along? ...to provide a change of pace in the story? ...to balance one character against another, or to provide a contrast to a main character? ...to help explain the motivations of the main character or characters?

Are the characters realistic? Stereotyped? Unbelievable? Romantic?

Are all the characters necessary to the story, or could the author have left some of them out?

Does the author let you know a great deal about the characters, or does the author tell you about one main characteristic only?

How important is our knowing more about the characters, or do we appreciate the story without knowing much about the character? Does this factor indicate something about the author's purpose in writing the story?

Character Sketch Assignment 40 marks

When you read a novel, if the author is good at characterization, you should be able to “see” the character in your mind’s eye. In this assignment, you will have a chance to let other see the character as you do

A character sketch is simply a detailed description of a character, separate from the story itself.

FOLLOW THESE STEPS (IN ORDER!) TO COMPLETE THIS ASSIGNMENT...

Step One: Make a Choice

Choose one character from the novel. You will describe this character.

Step Two: Make a Thought Web

Consider the appearance and the personality of the character. Look back at the novel: What does the character look like? What did the character’s feelings, actions and conversation tell you about the character’s personality? What made the character easy to picture in your mind or easy to empathize with? What adjectives could you use to describe the character? Make a thought web that includes these ideas.

Step Three: Provide a Written Description

- Using the thought web from Step Two above, write description of the character. Choose one—or a combination—of these ways to describe the character’s appearance:
- Write a descriptive paragraph that includes a description of the character’s appearance and personality (two-thirds of a page minimum)
- Make a word collage of adjectives, descriptive phrases, and quotations from the book to describe the character (minimum of 15 phrases)
- Write a journal or diary entry that expresses how the character felt at a key point in the novel, and which reveals the character’s appearance and personality (minimum one page).
- If you have an idea of your own how to describe the character, check with Mr. Layton first.

Qualities of a Character 5 marks

Choose a character from your novel. Character's Name: _____

Cross out the words on this list that **DO NOT DESCRIBE** the character you choose.

Mental Qualities

Physical Qualities

intelligent	unintelligent	strong	weak
educated	unschooled	healthy	sickly
smart	dumb	handsome	hideous
wise	ignorant	beautiful	ugly
gifted	simple	pretty	graceless
clever	puerile	cute	emaciated
ingenious	obtuse	robust	clumsy
brilliant	vacuous	hardy	awkward
learned	narrow-minded	dainty	grotesque
scholarly	shallow	delicate	odious
astute	dull	charming	coarse
competent	incompetent	ravishing	repulsive
sensible	unreasonable	adroit	ungainly
talented intellectual	incapable	skillful	unkempt
precocious	bigoted	lively	decrepit
rational	ignorant		
	irrational		

Moral Qualities

Social Qualities

moral	immoral	cooperative	contentious
kind	cruel	hospitable	inhospitable
considerate	inconsiderate	congenial	impolite
idealistic	unprincipled	cheerful	sullen
innocent	corrupt	supportive	antagonistic
righteous	vile	urbane	boorish
upstanding	deceitful	worldly	provincial
truthful	lying	debonair	brusque
honest	unscrupulous	suave	obsequious
honorable	dishonorable	elegant	unpolished
loyal	untrustworthy	courteous	petulant
helpful	self-centered	tactful	crude
virtuous	dissolute	cordially, convivial	crabby
puree	vulgar	encouraging	critical
puritanical	degenerate	merry	caustic
austere	sensual		grumpy
polite	insulting		
respectable	base		

Characterization Chart

20 marks

Complete the following chart to record the characteristics of the characters in your novel.

Character	Characteristic/Quality	Events which reveal this quality

CHARACTERIZATION QUALITIES

5 marks

Pick a character from a short story you have just read and answer the following questions. Be prepared to discuss your answers.

Is CHARACTER more like...

- A. May or December?
- B. A Subaru or a Mercedes Benz?
- C. Brown or blue?
- D. A snowstorm or a rainy day?
- E. The letter *A*, the letter *M*, or the letter *Z*?
- F. Vanilla ice cream or chocolate mousse?
- G. New York, San Francisco, Salt Lake City, or New Orleans?
- H. A hammer or a nail?
- I. A short story or a poem?
- J. White, rye, or pumpernickel bread?
- K. A TV quiz show or a news report?
- L. Soap or dirt?
- M. Fire, water, earth, or air?
- N. A cathedral, a pup tent, or a log cabin?
- O. Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe, or South America?
- P. A horse show, a hockey match, or a track-and-field event?
- Q. A filing cabinet or a garbage pail?
- R. A lock or a key?
- S. A forest fire or a mountain stream?
- T. The comics, the sports section, the business report, or the editorial page?
- U. A wood lathe or a kitchen stove?

Character Song or Poem 40 marks

There are two ways to complete this activity (choose one).

1. Write a song (music and/or words) to describe a character in the novel.
2. Write a poem (using a form of your choice) to describe a character in the novel

No matter which option you choose, consider the following:

- What words (adjectives) would you most accurately depict the character you choose?
- What tone or impression does that character most frequently create?
- What is the character's attitude?
- How do other characters act towards the character you chose?

Character's Elementary School Report Card 40 marks

After choosing one main character from the novel create an *elementary school report card* for that character. Keep the following in mind:

- The report card must accurately reflect the character's current personality and capabilities.
- The report card must LOOK like a REAL report card
- The report card must include...
 - ...Grades for all subject areas
 - ...Realistic and specific "teacher's comments" for each subjects

Character Signature 5 marks

As you are probably aware, handwriting style can reveal a person's personality. Every person has his/her own unique signature.

For this activity choose two or more of the main characters and create signature for those characters. Each signature must match that character's personality.

CHARACTER

5 marks

Pick one of the characters from a short story you have just read. Where the questions below say CHARACTER, substitute the name of the character you have picked. Then answer the questions.

- A. CHARACTER has just been given a ticket for speeding. How will CHARACTER respond?
- B. In a contest sponsored by a commercial company, CHARACTER has won \$100,000. Describe what CHARACTER will do with the money.
- C. CHARACTER is thinking about getting married (after a divorce, after the death of the spouse, etc.). What characteristics will CHARACTER look for in a marriage partner? How do you know?
- D. CHARACTER wants to buy a new house. What type of home will CHARACTER look for? Where will it be located? How much will it cost? What kind of landscaping will it have?
- E. You offer to give CHARACTER a ticket to any type of sporting event CHARACTER would enjoy seeing. What type of sporting event will CHARACTER choose? Why?
- F. You are the director of a movie based upon the short story that you have just read. Whom will you cast in the role of CHARACTER? Why?
- G. CHARACTER has just entered a restaurant that serves every type of food in the world. The waiter asks CHARACTER, "What would you like?" CHARACTER replies: _____ . Explain the choice.

Diary Entry

20 marks

Taking the role of one of the main characters in your novel, write a diary or journal entry that covers the events of one or more of the exciting, eventful chapters in the novel. Be sure to include RAFTP and other planning with your diary entry. *Information about*

RAFTP on next page

RAFTP

Role

(Whose voice is speaking in the writing?)

Audience

(Who will read the writing?)

Format

(Will this be a letter?...an essay?...a news article?...a poem?...a story?)

Topic

(What are you writing about?)

Purpose

(Why are you writing this? What point are you trying to make?)

Category #2: Setting

Map of Setting

25 marks

Draw and colour a map, which shows the setting of your novel. Include specific cities, towns, landmarks or buildings which are important to the novel's events.

You may use an atlas if necessary. Be sure to check your novel for maps which could help you complete this activity.

Word Collage

20 marks

Consider the elements of the setting in your novel.

- Time (of years, of the day, in history)
- Place, location
- Weather (climate, current weather)

Create a word collage, using words cut from magazines and newspapers. You may add words that you write as well.

Be sure to present the collage so that it parallels the tone and mood of the actual setting.

Drawing of Setting

25 marks

Choose this option if you love to draw!

For this activity, you will need to draw a picture of the setting in your novel. You may do this by...

- Depicting the most important setting on a piece of 11 x 17 paper...OR
- Depicting a series of setting in the novel on 4-6 pieces of 8.5x11 paper

Your drawing(s) must be clearly presented must accurately depict the setting(s), and must be in COLOUR.

3-D Model of Setting

40 marks

Create a 3-D model of the novel's setting using materials of your choice (cardboard, wood, paper-mache, etc.). Be sure to show the important features of setting which serve a background for the novel's events.

Category #3: Plot

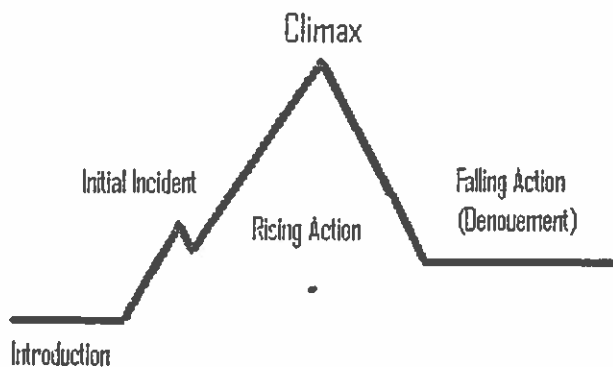
Plot Diagram

30 marks

Complete a plot diagram which shows the main events of the novel. Remember—plot includes:

- Introduction (Exposition)
- Initial Incident
- Rising Action
- Climax
- Falling Action (Denouement)

To complete this activity, create and fill in a plot diagram “skeleton” like the one below, on a piece of large paper.



Mime Activity

30 marks

Choose an important scene (chapter) in your novel.

Then create a pantomime, which depicts the events in the chapter you chose.

Remember: Miming involves only actions, not words, so your actions will need to reveal not only the events, but also the feelings and behaviors of the characters.

Cartoon of Events

30 marks

Keep track of the events that occur in your novel, and represent these events in the form of a cartoon strip. Be sure to include:

- Conversations between characters
- Clear depiction of the setting behind the events
- All of the main occurrences through out the novel
- COLOUR!

You may modify the characters' conversations slightly, as long as the meaning remains accurate.

News Editorial

30 marks

To complete this activity, you will have to take on the role of one of the main characters in the novel.

Then choose an event from the novel that affected that character. Based on this event, write a news editorial (e.g., a letter to the editor) which reveals the character's opinion and attitude about that event. Write it from that character's point of view/perspective.

Scene Presentation

40 marks

Choose a descriptive scene from your novel. Select appropriate music to go with it. Add a slide presentation or video presentation to depict the scene. You may want to read the excerpt from the novel as part of the presentation.

This activity may be videotaped, presented live, or done on Power Point.

Puppet Play

50 marks

For this activity, you will need to do the following:

- Create a puppet for each of the main characters in the novel.
- Write an appropriate "puppet script" for a key chapter in the novel (i.e., for the chapter containing the climax)
- Present the events of the chapter in the form of a puppet show (may be shown live or on video)

Song or Poem of Events

40 marks

There are two ways to complete this activity (choose one).

1. Write a song (music and/or words) to describe the events in the novel.
2. Write a poem (using a form of your choice) to describe the events of the novel.

No matter which option you choose, consider the following:

- What did the characters do?
- How did other characters react?
- What consequences resulted from the novel's events?

Category #4: Theme ORIGINALS

Collage

30 marks

"Theme" refers to the underlying meaning of a literary work. It is a general truth about life or human kind.

Using the genre of a collage, assemble a series of pictures and words to present the theme of the novel you read. The collage must be on 11" x 17" paper.

~~Write your theme...~~



Photo Essay

40 marks

Before choosing this activity, please check with your teacher about seeing other examples of photo essays.

A photo essay portrays a thesis, not through words, but through pictures.

State the theme of your novel through pictures cut from magazines or newspaper. You may also choose to take photographs to include in your photo essay.

Just as in a written essay, the photo essay must be unified and coherent, so that it presents a message.

Here's How To Create a Photo Essay

A photo essay uses a series of images, and sometimes words, to communicate ideas to viewers. The process for creating a photo essay is similar in some ways to writing an essay.

1. **Choose a subject you care about.** You also want a subject that you feel will carry a strong message to viewers.
2. **Think about your purpose.** What effect do you want to achieve? Do you want to inspire people? Shake them up? Fill them with wonder?
3. **Consider your audience.** Whom do you want to reach? Your peers? Teachers? Community?
4. **Review your options.** Your photo essay might tell a story—with a beginning, middle, and end. Or it could be a collection of images to be viewed in any order.
5. **Collect photographs.** You can use existing snapshots, cutouts from magazines and other sources, or take new photographs. As you select your pictures, keep asking yourself this question: How will this photo add to my essay? Keep in mind your subject, purpose, and audience as you choose each photo. Try to show different aspects of your subject.
6. **Make a display.** Arrange the photos on a large piece of poster board. Add a few of your own words, or perhaps some lines of poetry, if these would strengthen your essay.

TRY it!

The topic of a photo essay can be almost anything you like.

- **Making Music** Images of people singing and playing instruments as they make music.
- **Being the Best You Can Be** Images of people of all ages and talents achieving a moment of success.
- **Helping Hands** Images of people in your community working together to help others.



Journal Entry/Response

20 marks

For this activity, first consider what the underlying theme of your novel is. (THEME refers to the underlying meaning or *main message* of a literary work, a general truth about life or humankind.)

You may write this journal entry from your own point of view, or from the point of view of one of the novel's characters.

Be sure to include comments in the journal entry about the theme of the novel, as well as any other comments you would like to make.

Your writing for this activity should be minimum 3 pages, double-spaced.

Theme Questions

15 marks

Theme is the underlying meaning of a literary work, a general truth about life or humankind.

For this activity, complete the following questions:

- ◆ What is the theme, or central idea of the story? State it in one sentence. Are there any secondary themes? If so, state in one sentence.
- ◆ Does the theme have any significance for you? Explain?
- ◆ Do you agree with the author's opinion as it is revealed in the story? Discuss.
- ◆ Does the author state the theme...through the people in the story? ...through the setting of the story? ...through the action of the story? ...Discuss.
- ◆ Compare the theme of this story with that of a selection with a similar or opposing theme.

Category #5: Personal Reactions.

Response Log Entry

15 marks

Write an entry in your Response Log, about the novel you chose. Be sure to use the coloured guideline pages at the beginning of your Response Log. The entry must be at least 3 pages, double-spaced.

Response Log Ideas for Novels

Which character did you like the best? Why? Are the characters' feelings understandable? Which do you feel that you best understand?

Can you "see" the story's characters in your mind's eye? What "tools" does the author use to describe the characters' personalities and appearances?

Can you "see" the setting in your mind? What did you like/dislike about it? How did the setting contribute to the book?

Did the beginning of the story capture your interest? Why or why not? Did the author choose an appropriate title, in your opinion? How would you change the beginning of the book (or the title) to make it better?

Which event surprised, excited, or frightened you most? Why? Describe the event in your own words.

Did the story or chapter end the way you thought it would? If yes, how did you know it would end that way? If no, how did you think it would end?

Is the ending a satisfactory conclusion to the story? Does the resolution (dénouement) logically follow the climax and the events that led up to the climax? How would you change it, if you don't find it satisfactory/logical?

Does the author use words and phrases to create special effects (e.g., dialect, figures of speech, striking description)? Does the writer show an ability to use variety in sentence lengths and types.

Graffiti Board**20 marks**

Write a response to your novel in the form of graffiti, by using LARGE paper. Write brief comments, words, slogans, and sayings that apply to the characters, events, setting, and theme of the novel.

Be sure to present the graffiti as realistically as possible (no profanity) with COLOUR.

Personal Reactions Qs**5 marks**

Complete the following questions on a piece of loose-leaf paper. Answer in full sentences.

1. What do you like or dislike about the novel you have read? Discuss.
2. What feeling does the novel generate in you? Was the story sad, exciting, frightening? What elements in the story help to generate these feelings?
3. Would you recommend this story? Why or why not?

Category #6

Summative +
Extension Activities

Design a Book Jacket**40 marks**

Prepare a book jacket for your novel. In order to do this, include the following components:

- (1) a colourful illustration of a key part of the novel on the front part of the book jacket
- (2) the book title on the front cover of the book jacket
- (3) a summary of the novel on the inside covers of the book jacket
- (4) the authors name on the spine of the book jacket
- (5) three "critical remarks" about the novel on the back cover of the book jacket

Book Review

30 marks

For this activity you will need:

- Paper
- Pen
- An Opinion

Write a book review or critique about the novel you chose. The review should include:

- Your opinion about the book.
- Recommendations for reading the book (i.e., to which audience does the book appeal, in your opinion?)
- Specific references to enjoyable portions of the book.
- A brief account of the main events in the novel.

Be sure to use examples and/or quotations from the novel to support the opinion you present in your review.

PostCard Adventure

40 marks

By taking the role of one of the main characters in your novel, create a postcard about the novel. Use the following items:

The FRONT must include:

- a picture which best represents the action in the novel
- the title of the novel
- the author of the novel

The BACK must include

- a stamp which represents the setting
- the address of another character who the card is sent
- a *main message*, including...
 - ...one really important incident of the novel
 - ...at least five details about the incident
 - ...some specific indication of your opinion of the novel
 - ...a "P.S." (post-script)
- an eye-catching signature of the character writing the letter

Dramatization of a Scene

50 marks

To do this activity, follow these steps:

- 1) Choose a group with whom to act out the scene (i.e., others who are reading the same novel).
- 2) Choose a SIGNIFICANT scene from the novel.
- 3) Prepare to act out the scene by writing a play script for the scene's events and conversations.
- 4) Collect props, costumes, sets, and other materials necessary to your dramatization of the scene.
- 5) Rehearse the scene
- 6) Present the scene to the class (it may be live or recorded on video).

Promotional T-shirt

30 marks

Have you ever seen a promotional T-shirt for a musical group? These are sold at concerts, as promotional material for the band or for the band's tour.

For this activity, you need to design a T-shirt which promotes your novel. The t-shirt must include the following:

- the name of the novel
- the author of the novel
- names of significant characters
- comments on (or pictures of) significant events
- colour to match the tone and mood created by the novel (see the teacher for information about colour and symbolism.)
- a picture of image which captures the "essence" of the novel.

You may simply draw the T-shirt design (front and back), or actually create a T-shirt of your own.

Commercial or Advertisement

40 marks

For this activity you may choose to create:

- A) a television commercial (i.e. video recording) OR
- B) a poster advertisement

No matter which option you select, it must include the following elements:

- the name of the novel
- a "clip" or picture of an important scene in the novel
- positive comments about the novel's quality
- comments and hints about the novel's characters
- reasons why someone should read the novel