

CHARACTER JOURNAL NOTES: each box needs 3-4 sentences of basic plot summary told from the perspective of the main character. Include important details. For conflict development, be sure to include any external or internal conflicts faced by the protagonist of the story.



UNDERSTANDING

Key terms:

Conflict – struggle between opposing forces. You will have a clear protagonist for each of these works, and the conflict is the struggles and opposition the protagonist faces.

Protagonist – the main character. To be more specific, the character that the book follows most closely and continuously, and who is usually the driver of the action in the story

Antagonist – The character/characters most in conflict with the main character. Sometimes it is very clear who is most in conflict with the main character, other times the society in which the character exists is what causes the conflict.

Main Conflict – in almost all cases, the main conflict is the *protagonist* against the *antagonist*. This developing conflict is sometimes referred to as “rising action” which leads to a climax.

Root Cause of Conflict – The over-arching reason for the conflict. Look at the society’s attitudes and structure, something from the character’s past or what may have “stacked the cards” against them.

Climax – the point at which the conflict reaches its peak (turning point), and immediately afterward shifts toward the resolution of that conflict.

Resolution – Demonstrates how the main conflict has been solved. In most novels, the conflict that has built and reached a climax has an ending that clearly shows that the conflict has ended, whether through the elimination of the antagonist directly or a change in circumstance that resolves the conflict.

Literary elements – these elements include style elements such as imagery and figurative language, as well as plot elements such as (but not only) symbolism, motif, foreshadowing, and irony

Historical Context – What influenced the writer to create this story? To establish Historical context, you must have an understanding of the time that the author physically sat down and wrote the novel. For example, if the novel was written in 1963 and it features nuclear war, you could argue that the Cuban Missile Crisis and the tensions with Russia influenced the writer.

DO YOUR BEST – MAKE AN HONEST EFFORT – SEEK HELP IF YOU NEED IT!