

## PSII INDEPENDENT NOVEL STUDY GUIDE

**Guiding Questions** *(Select questions that help you provide evidence of your learning related to the novel you have been reading. You can even do them all if you want. Or make up some of your own.)*

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1. What is the setting of the book? Time? Place(s)/world(s)? Atmosphere/mood? How is setting revealed in the book? (i.e. Directly? Indirectly?) How does the author create the mood?
2. Identify, name and describe the protagonist in the book. Describe him/her physically and describe his/her personality and history, if known. Then give your impression of him/her.
3. Name and describe one important secondary character. Describe her/him physically and describe her/his personality and history, if known. Explain how s/he is important to the story, the mood, and/or the ideas of the book.
4. Explain one specific aspect of the culture described in the book. Explain how it compares to a specific culture you are familiar with. (yours or someone else's)
5. Find one specific idea or event in the book that relates to real life. Explain how it relates to real life.
6. Compare and contrast two characters psychologically. To do this, consider their behavior and personality. Is their psychological profile caused by their circumstances, or the other way around?
7. Give an example of a conflict or conflicts in the story. (between two people, two groups of people, an internal conflict within one person, between a person and the environment)
8. What kind of narrator does the story have? Is the narrator a character in the story? What is the personality of the narrator? Is s/he omniscient (all-knowing)? Or is their knowledge of the universe limited?
9. Choose a sentence or phrase that particularly interests or intrigues you. Explain why you chose it, and talk about its value to you and/or to the ideas in the book.
10. Does the author use humour, irony, symbolism, or metaphors? Give examples and explain the effect.
11. What is the climax in the novel's plot? What major conflicts lead up to it and what is its resolution?
12. What is the theme or themes in the novel? (big idea, like "Humans always live out predetermined patterns in their lives," or "Good and evil are relative terms and not absolute states.")

### **Some activity ideas:**

1. Create a wanted poster for a character in the story.
2. Create diary entries for a character in the story that take place during the story or part of it.
3. Create a map of the part or all of the physical setting of the story.
4. Write or act out an interview with one of the characters.
5. Create a “missing chapter” (within story or prequel or sequel) for the story.
6. Sketch or re-enact an important or interesting scene from the story.
7. Find or create three songs that relate to the theme of the story and explain how they relate.
8. Create a brochure or advertisement promoting the novel in detail.
9. Re-write/re-imagine the story or part of the story as a book for young children.
10. Create an original short film, story, or script using the same theme as the one in the story you have just read.