

**Salem High School Summer Reading Packet**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Course \_\_\_\_\_

Literary Log for \_\_\_\_\_

Before returning to your English class next school year, you will need to read your required book and complete this assignment. This organizer is intended to guide your reading and to focus your thoughts so that you are prepared to discuss and to write about your novel.

Everyone will be writing an essay about a character that faces some type of conflict. Before focusing on such a conflict, however, you need to understand some of the basic elements of the story.

**SECTION I**

List seven significant plot events in the order they occur in the novel. Tell how each plot point adds to the story.

- 1.
  
- 2.
  
- 3.
  
- 4.
  
- 5.
  
- 6.
  
- 7.

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SECTION 2

**Key Characters:** Identify three important characters in your novel. Describe each character using three adjectives (none of which describes a physical trait), and provide concrete details (quotations and page numbers) to support your choices.

Name	Adjectives	Concrete Details (quotations)	Page Numbers
	1.  2.  3.		
	1.  2.  3.		
	1.  2.  3.		

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**SECTION 3**

**Conflict:** Usually, readers care about what happens next in a story because they are hooked by a conflict, or struggle. This struggle might take place between two characters or it might take place between a character and something nonhuman – a typhoon, a shark, gas in a mine pit, or a computer virus. Conflict can also take place within a character’s own mind and heart: The desire to be peaceable might conflict with an urge to knock out a bully. A desire to win someone’s friendship might conflict with a fear of rejection. Often, an external conflict results in an internal problem: facing that typhoon is going to produce fear and perhaps a desire to run away.

When the conflict takes place between a character and another person or between a character and something nonhuman, it is an **external conflict**. When the conflict takes place inside a character’s mind, it is an **internal conflict**.

List up to three external conflicts and up to three internal conflicts in the novel. For each identified conflict, provide one concrete detail to support it.

External Conflict	Concrete Detail with Page Number
1.	
2.	
3.	

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SECTION 3 (Continued)

Internal Conflict	Concrete Detail with Page Number
1.	
2.	
3.	

**SECTION 4**

**Characterization:** In three to five sentences, explain how one character has changed by the end of the novel as a result of an internal conflict. Provide one concrete detail from the beginning of the novel and one from the end of the novel to support your explanation.

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### SECTION 5

**Theme:** Theme is the central idea or ideas of a work of literature. A theme is not the same as a topic. The topic of a work can usually be expressed in a word or two: love, childhood, death. The theme is the idea the writer wishes to reveal about that topic. It can be expressed in at least one complete sentence. For example, the topic of a novel might be love, but the theme would be stated as “Love is more powerful than family loyalty.” Theme is not usually stated directly in a work of literature. Most often, the reader has to think about all the elements of the work and use them to make an inference, or educated guess, about what the theme is.

#### Circle two different topics in the novel:

Adaptability	Games/contests/sports	Persistence/perseverance
Adventure	Gratitude	Poverty
Ambition	Greed	Prejudice
Chance/fate/luck	Growing up	Pride
Childhood	Guilt	Privacy
Children	Hate	Race relations
Compassion	Heart vs. reason	Reality
Confidence	Heaven/paradise/utopia	Religion
Consideration	Home	Resistance/rebellion
Courage	Hope	Ritual/ceremony
Courage/cowardice	Identity	Scapegoat/victim
Cruelty/violence	Illusion/innocence	Search for identity
Curiosity	Independence	Self-actualization
Custom/tradition	Initiation	Self-discipline
Death/friendship	Initiative	Self-improvement
Defeat/failure	Instinct	Service
Despair/discontent/disillusionment	Integrity	Social Status
Diligence	Journey (psychological or literal)	Success
Dreams/fantasies	Justice	Supernatural
Duty	Law/justice	Teamwork
Education/school	Loneliness/aloneness	Time/eternity
Endurance	Love	Tricks
Equality	Loyalty	Truth
Escape	Materialism	Unhappiness
Exile	Maturity/maturation	Violence
Faith/loss of faith	Memory/past	War
Family/parenthood/commitment	Music/dance	Wealth
Fear	Nature	
Free will/will power	Patience	
Freedom	Patriotism	
Friendship	Peace	

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**Section 6 - Choose a topic from page 6**

For each topic (you chose from the previous page), list five concrete details as evidence of that topic. Then, analyze the concrete details to determine the novel's theme, what the writer is revealing about that topic. Finally, write a complete sentence that expresses the theme of the novel.

<b>Topic:</b>
<b>Concrete Details with Page Numbers:</b> 1.  2.  3.  4.  5.
<b>Theme of the novel:</b>

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Section 6 (Continued) - Choose a topic from page 6

<b>Topic:</b>
<b>Concrete Details with Page Numbers:</b> 1.  2.  3.  4.  5.
<b>Theme of the novel:</b>



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Section 7

**Question:** Write down three questions you have about the novel that could be answered by taking a closer look at the book or having a discussion.

Section 8

**Personal Reaction to the Work:** Write down any additional thoughts you have about the novel. What would you tell next year's students about this book?