

Along Comes a Wolfe Novel Study

Outline:

The objective of the novel study is to determine how the characters, plot setting and theme interrelate. The students will demonstrate their understanding of the four components by completing the activities found in this novel study.

Evaluation:

The marks will be distributed as follows:

- | | |
|---|-------------------------|
| 1. General book knowledge | |
| a. Character | 10 marks |
| b. Plot | 10 marks |
| c. Setting | 10 marks |
| d. Theme and Style | 10 marks |
| 2. Opinion Questions (pick six to complete) | 15 marks |
| 3. Alternate Questions (pick three to complete) | 15 marks |
| 4. Essay Contract 1 | 10 marks |
| 5. Essay Contract 2 | 10 marks |
| 6. Essay Contract 3 | 10 marks |
| | Total: 100 marks |

Due dates are indicated with each section.

Character:

Terms/Definitions:

1. **Protagonist:** the leading character, the hero or antihero of the story
2. **Antagonist:** term for the character who opposes the protagonist.
3. **Antihero:** the main character who is not like the hero but rather ordinary.
4. **Flat character:** a character who is relatively simple and does not change much through the course of the story.
5. **Personality:** human qualities which distinguish or individualize a person.
6. **Round character:** a complex character, often a major character who can grow and change throughout the story.
7. **Backstory:** The events of a character's history revealed through the actions of the story.

The following information contains different ideas for the character. Answer all the questions below.

Due:

1. Draw a flowchart of the people in this novel and how they relate to each other.
2. Who are the main characters in this novel? What is their purpose in the novel?
3. What can you tell me about the characters in the book?
4. Explore the backstory of one of the main characters. What is revealed?
5. Is there a character that reminds you of someone you know? Explain.
6. Have you ever experienced what a character in the book experienced? Do you think you ever will? Why or why not?
7. The novel is written from the point of view of which character? Why did the author pick this character to tell the story from? Why not from another one?
8. What are some of the thoughts and ideas of the main character?
9. Who else is significant in the novel?
10. Choose a character and name his or her strengths and weaknesses and how it relates to the novel?
11. Are the characters believable? How? Why?
12. Are the characters memorable? Why or why not? Who was the most memorable character in the book?

Plot:

Terms/Definitions:

1. **Plot:** a series of events focused around the actions of a character to obtain a want.
2. **Want:** The need or desire that drives each character.
3. **Obstacle:** The person or thing that stands in the way of a character obtaining their want.
4. **Conflict:** the struggle of a character for their want against opposing forces (between two people/ a person and something in nature or society/ or two parts of one's self).
5. **Action:** The activity a character takes in obtaining their want.
6. **Response:** The activity a character takes due to an event or action of another character.
7. **Outcome:** The conclusion of the main action due to either obtaining a character's want or no longer being able to achieve it.
8. **Turning Points:** When a character's path of action to what they want becomes significantly easier or far more difficult.
9. **Flashback:** structural device where a scene from the past is put into the present in the story
10. **Suspense:** When the expectation of what is going to happen next is in question.

The following information contains different ideas for the plot. Answer the following questions below.

Due:

1. Does the plot contain action, suspense, conflict, etc.?
2. Are the characters important? Do they serve a purpose in developing the plot? Pick one character and explain how.
3. Is the conclusion complete or does it leave you with unanswered questions?
4. What type of plot would you say is used in the novel? Why? Explain your choice.
 - a. Cumulative – a series of incidents built into each other
 - b. Progressive – developing action
 - c. Episodic – chapters complete in themselves
5. What type of conflict is there?
 - a. Person/person
 - b. Person/nature
 - c. Person/ inner self struggle
 - d. Person/society (when a person's actions, desires, values, differ from those of society)
6. A good story has a good beginning, middle and end. In your opinion so you feel the author has accomplished this? Which part do you think was most effective (beginning, middle, end)?

Setting (time, place or culture):

The following information contains different ideas for the setting. Answer all the questions below.

Due:

1. How does the setting help the reader share experiences with the character's values actions and conflicts?
2. How does the setting help the reader understand the plot?
3. How does the setting affect the actions of the plot?
4. What sensory images does the author use to bring the story to life (touch, sound, smell etc.)
5. What type of mood is created by the setting?
6. Does the setting add credibility to the plot of the novel and characters?
7. Does the setting describe the location and time in the novel? Is it sequential or does it jump around?

Theme and Style:

Terms/Definitions:

1. **Subject:** the concrete literal description of what a story is about.
2. **Theme:** dominant ideas, statements, or arguments of the story.
3. **Style:** The author's choices of words, imagery, plot construction, and ideas, as well as the book's form (how a book is constructed including punctuation, chapter headings, design of words on page, etc.).

The following information contains different ideas for the theme and style. Answer all the questions below.

Due:

1. What does the author want to convey about life and society?
2. Is the theme conveyed directly or is it not obvious?
3. Can you understand the theme in terms of your own needs and ideas?
4. Does the theme change or does it remain consistent through the novel?
5. If you could change the theme, how would you do it and what changes would you make?
6. In your opinion, what is the theme in the beginning, middle and end of the novel?
7. How does the author's style get the reader involved?
8. Are the characters credible (believable)? If yes, then how does the author achieve this in their writing? If no, how could the author achieve this in their writing?
9. List examples (at least 15) of how the author uses language to make the characters and plot more believable. For example: The way we see, hear, feel and smell, the setting in the story – this is done through the author's words and vocabulary.

Opinion Questions:

Below are twelve questions that must be answered through personal opinion. Pick six to answer.

Due:

1. What was your favorite part of the book? Why?
2. Did you come across anything in the novel that reminds you of something in your life?
3. Did anything seem especially interesting? Annoying? Puzzling? Frightening? Weird? Funny? Sad? Unbelievable?
4. Picture an event or scene from the novel. What would it feel like to be a character in the book? What would a scene in the novel have looked like from the perspective of one of the characters?
5. Have you ever read a story or seen a T.V. show or movie where an event in the book happened?
6. Do you think the book was giving a message to anyone thing or person? Why or why not?
7. How did you feel while reading this book? What did you think the author is trying to tell us?
8. Looking towards the future do you think that a solution will be found for this kind of problem?
9. Why do you think the author wrote this book?
10. How did you feel when reading the novel when it described the things the main character went through?
11. What would you do if you were in his shoes?

Alternate Questions:

These questions give the students a chance to problem solve in a different way. Below are eight different ways to react to the content of the novel. Pick three and hand one in at the end of every week.

Due date one:

Due date two:

Due date three:

1. Respond to the novel by writing a letter to the author or a character.
2. Character empathy: react to the tragedies and emotions that he character experiences. Express your own feelings in journal format.
3. Character interaction: talk to the characters in the novel offering advice and/or criticize the character's actions in journal format.
4. Identify unknown vocabulary words and make a list. Define them.
5. Write a song or a poem about the book or main character.
6. Discuss how the book might be made into a TV show or movie.
7. Draw the setting for your book. Illustrating as many details as you can find from the book.
8. Make a collage to explain and describe either the plot of your book or one of the characters. Use cut out words and pictures from old magazines.

Essay Contracts for the novel:

After reading the book, complete three of the following essay contracts. I'm looking for quality as opposed to quantity. Each contract must be written in essay form with an introduction, body and conclusion.

Essay Writing Checklist:

- Does your essay contain an introduction, body and conclusion?
- Are all your main points organized into paragraphs? Does each paragraph contain a topic sentence?
- Have you proofread carefully?
- Proofread for capitals, spelling and punctuation.
- Look at the overall appearance of your essay.

You will be marked on the following:

- Organization
- Coherence (does it make sense?)
- Structure (introduction, body, and conclusion)
- Mechanics (grammar, spelling, punctuation)

REMEMBER: Each contract should have a rough draft and a good typed copy. Both must be handed in for marks. Be sure to put your name and the date on each one.

Contract one due:

Contract two due:

Contract three due:

1. Character Traits:

- a. Describe the main character in your novel, include descriptions of his or her appearance, personality, behavior and actions.
- b. What problems does the character have? What's important to the character?
- c. Discuss whether you felt the character was believable. Are they like "real" people?

2. Prediction Outcomes:

- a. Write a different ending to your story.
- b. Write an epilogue for your book. Tell what happens to your characters after the book is finished. What do they do next? What are they doing one, five or ten years later?

3. Setting:

- a. Where does the story take place?
- b. Tell me what this place was like?
- c. Have you ever been to a place like this?
- d. When did the story take place (past, present, future)?

4. Mood:

- a. How did you feel while reading this book?
- b. What was the funniest part?
- c. What was the saddest part?
- d. What was the strangest thing that happened?
- e. What was the most exciting thing that happened?
- f. What do you remember the most about the story?

5. Style:

- a. What special words does the author use to help you hear things in the story, see thing, feel things in the story?
- b. Tell me about any pictures the author has left in your mind.
- c. What do you like about the way the author was written the story?
- d. Did the author use any metaphors to create an image that was effective?
- e. Were there any symbols in the story?

6. Letter writing:

Write a letter to the author of your book. Tell him or her what you liked or did not like about the book. What questions would you ask the author?

7. Author's Purpose:

What do you think was the author's purpose in writing this book? To entertain? To reveal character? To reveal the author's point about some aspect to life? To suggest or solve a problem? To teach a lesson? To present some important point in history? To indulge the fancy or imagination of the author? Or a combination of purposes?