Name
Book Title
Author
Year Published
Character's Name

Character Assessment for Independent Reading

1. What main conflict or struggle does your character face? What challenges your character? It might be a force of society or nature, or another character, or the character's own *hamartia* (personality trait that prevents the character from seeing the flaws in his or her own actions). Use examples to illustrate what the problem is and describe about three places in the story where we see the character actively struggling.

2. How does your character try to resolve this conflict? Use examples to illustrate this journey: Name at least three examples. Explain why your character chooses each of these actions and what happens as a result of them. (Your character might not recognize the true conflict – In this case, how does the character *avoid* grappling with it, or make mistakes?)

3. Name a defining choice the character makes and explain why the character chose this action. Often, this is the "drama" moment of the story. You can't leave it out. There might be more than one!

4. What happens at the end as a result of the character's choices?

4A) If the story has a narrative "frame", that is, the story is a *Let me tell you when* kind of story that is told from a future perspective, such as *Frankenstein*, *The Great Gatsby* or *Their Eyes Were Watching God* -- explain how this narrative perspective helps to reinforce "the meaning of the work as a whole".

5. What human truth, or "meaning of the work as a whole" is revealed by the story? This is your "thesis statement" or "claim." Consider *why* the character makes the choices he or she makes: the character's *hamartia*, the circumstances he or she faces, and other factors that might be historical in the character's setting all might play a role in shaping the character's actions. What goes wrong (or right) and why? Most importantly here is your analysis: What does this character's journey teach the rest of us?

For AP Literature Students

6. Choosing from the AP Prompts, **construct an introduction paragraph** where you include **stages of character development** or **opposing characters' views** as possible paragraph topics. Attempt to weave in the "hook" of the prompt to shape "the meaning of the work as a whole".

For English 2 Students

6. Construct an introduction paragraph for an essay that incorporates the author's name, the title of the story (in italics or underlined) and your thesis statement. Also include how you would organize your essay to highlight the character's initial problem, the struggles the character encounters, the reason the character makes the choices he or she makes, and what lessons we learn when we look at what happens in the end as a result of these choices.