

Title: _____ Author _____

YOUR NAME: _____

READING/TRACKING SHEET FOR CLOSE READING (for personal use)

I. BEFORE READING:

1) Read Author's brief biographical information: Any Interesting points that you might expect to be important to a story by this author, just based on what you know or the title?

2) When was it written? Anything significant happening historically and locally (country, state, etc) when it was written?

3) Impression from title: what do you think it could be about?

4) Theme for which the story/poem/etc is being read for or classified under?

II. AFTER READING JUST 1st PAGE, BLURB or Review(eg from Amazon.com or literary commentary from book or website)

1) Your expectation of what the story is about or will discuss, based only on reading the review, first page, or author's reputation/biography?

2) Mood set by first page?

3) **On first page**, Quotes, words, or lines that (as you are reading) catch your eye as strange, odd, interesting, bizarre or unique and leave an impression ?

4) **On first page**, What Characters/People seem important as the good guy, bad guy, major character, etc?

5) **By end of the first page**, what is your impression of plot/what the story might be about?

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III. AS YOU ARE READING: THE STORY (you should pause and answer this section after either

A) every chapter (novel),

B) every few pages (short story with more than 5 pages),

C) every page (story with less than 5 pages)

D) every section (poem) or important paragraph (poem or analysis for big paper)

and write answers to 1 to 6 below. Include page #'s, paragraphs and/or partial quotes so you can find again:

1. Vocabulary to look up:

2. As you are reading, any symbols? What might they mean?

3. As you are reading, Quotes, dialogue, or lines that (as you are reading) catch your eye as strange, odd, interesting, bizarre or unique and leave an impression?

4. As you are reading, any Scenes or imagery that (as you are reading) catch your eye as strange, odd, interesting, bizarre or unique and leave an impression?

5. As you are reading, any events or Action that (as you are reading) catch your eye as strange, odd, interesting, bizarre, unique, explain the heart of the story, and leave an impression?

6. As you are reading, Important settings or change of settings?

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IV. AS YOU ARE READING: THE CHARACTERS/PEOPLE in the STORY

(you should pause and answer this section after either

A) every chapter (novel),

B) every few pages (short story with more than 5 pages),

C) every page (story with less than 5 pages)

D) every section (poem) or important paragraph (poem or analysis for big paper)

and write answers to stages below. Include page #'s, paragraphs and/or partial quotes so you can find again):

1. As you are reading, list **Major Characters and your impressions** and how are the characters (or your impression of them) changing at the five stages of presentation (1.first impression → 2.middle of story → 3.when faced with a dilemma or choice → 4.when doing their most important action in the story → 5.at end)?

STAGE 1: first impression/who you thought would be the major characters/describe them in 5 or less words

STAGE 2: Changes to major characters in middle of story

STAGE 3: Your impression of major characters when faced with a dilemma or choice

STAGE 4: Your impression of major characters when doing their most important action in the story

STAGE 5: at end/who were the important characters? Describe in one sentence or less how each important character is changed by the story? WHY?

VI. Important character names/nicknames? Any names/nicknames have symbolic value (Names like Faith, Angel, Evergreen, Mann may often have symbolic values)

VII. Any other characters (not major) that stick in your mind? Why?

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V. POST-READING ANALYSIS:

- 1) What do you think the story/book is about, beyond the narrative (What is its message or reason considered important)?
- 2) Describe the solution (if any) of the story's ending, the problem or conflict resolved?
- 3) Describe your feeling as a reader at end of story. Are you satisfied with ending and why?
- 4) Now, why do you feel the story is/isn't worthy of being considered literature?

5) "E RATT TIC" questions for **GROUP DISCUSSION**

- 1) "**E**" What issue (or story topic or character) is universal or makes a statement about people and life in general?
- 2) "**R**"/**Reader** Anything sticks in your mind as ways the author is trying to trick, control, persuade, give only one side, convince or manipulate the reader with word choice, scene choice, cast of characters, style, point of view, commentary?
- 3) "**A**"/**Author** Any ways the biography of author might have played a part in the story's development or topic?
- 4) "**T**"/**Topic** What category would you put the book into (eg ghost story, love poem, character study, etc)
- 5) "**T**"/**Times** How would/was the story impt for when and where it was written (eg U.S., 1950, during segregation)?
- 6) "**T**"/**Trends** What trends in writing, movies, etc (ex 'superhero movies are dominant') is this part of/reaction against?
- 7) "**T**"/**Tradition** What other writers, stories, movies, etc does this remind you of? Why?
- 8) "**T**"/**Interpretation** Why do you think the writer made his/her message/style the way they did (w/shock, absurd situations, etc)?
- 9) "**C**"/**Canon** Who would like this story, think its important, and why?