





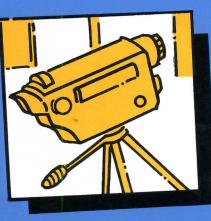
# READY-TO-USE Over 130 worksheets stimulate interest and

Over 130 worksheets to stimulate interest and develop language skills

# ACTIVITIES FOR GRADES 7-12

With Techniques and Ideas for Using Video in the Classroom









PATRICIA ALTMANN/LISA LUCIANO

Boy Thomas April 1994

# Ready-to-Use Literature Activities for Grades 7-12

With Techniques and Ideas for Using Video in the Classroom

Patricia Altmann Lisa Luciano

Illustrations by Carrie Oesmann, based on original renderings by Lisa Luciano



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# — Dedication —

To our parents for their constant love and support and for believing in us even when we didn't.

To all our "kids" past, present and future for gray hair, shared laughter, worry lines, helping hands, sleepless nights and tearful farewells.

Thanks for making learning a two-way experience.

# — About the Authors –

PATRICIA ALTMANN was graduated from Concordia College, Bronxville, New York, with a B.A. in Education. She also holds an M.A. in Reading from Manhattan College, Bronx, New York. Ms. Altmann taught for ten years in grades K–8; the last five of these years were spent teaching Reading and Literature on the junior high level in New York City. She is currently teaching on the elementary level in New York,

LISA LUCIANO received a B.A. in Communications from Fordham University. Director of the television production studio at Cathedral High School in Manhattan, New York, Ms. Luciano has also been teaching high school English, Drama, Film, Performing Arts, and Television Production for over nine years.

# ── About This Book ─

Having taught English in grades 7–12, we've learned several things. First of all, traditional techniques for teaching literature *do* still work. There is no substitute for reading the book. However, our experience has shown that teaching in a more creative and visual manner remains with the student far longer and can make the day more enjoyable for both you and your class.

Ready-to-Use Literature Activities for Grades 7–12 is divided into ten literary genres. Since some books can be placed in more than one category, we suggest you read through the entire text. Keep in mind that many of the projects can be used to teach short stories as well as full-length novels and plays.

The ten chapters are:

- Chapter 1 encompasses works characterized as adventure stories. These novels usually involve larger-than-life heroes and villains, exotic locations, action, and danger. Some of the projects include creating a comic strip, word games, map usage, visual design, and newspaper skills.
- Your class may not sign aboard the *Calypso*, but after doing some of the exercises in *Chapter 2*, on *animals*, *environment*, *and nature*, they will hopefully have a better understanding of and sensitivity to the creatures and world around them. Issues touched upon range from an analysis of a relationship with a beloved pet to the prospect of nuclear destruction. Many of the activities are geared to the students' natural affinity for animals, requiring that they make moral decisions and evaluate man's responsibility for the future of our planet.
- Biography is the focus of Chapter 3. Some assignments ask the class to assess the subject's impact on the world, while others require that the students deduce how history might have been altered without that person's contributions. By analyzing the subject's personality, your students will discover traits that led that person to extraordinary deeds. Hopefully, reading about someone else's achievements will inspire some students to set higher goals for their own lives.
- Chapter 4 includes novels that, through the course of time, have joined the luminous ranks of the classics. No matter what the setting, the ideas and emotions are timeless and therefore worthy of attention. In this chapter's activities, the student can design a new book cover, change a major event in the story, discuss memorable bits of dialogue, trace the main character's family tree, create a board game of the story, and even fill out a report card "grading" the novel.
- Any novel that deals with modern issues is included in *Chapter 5. Contemporary fiction* is often popular because it seems not so far removed from the students' lives, and the activities take advantage of that. The class is given the opportunity to project consequences beyond the actual conclusion of the story, to fill out a personality test, to write an advice column, and even to become a guidance counselor.
- *Plays*, whether comic or serious, can be found in *Chapter 6*. Students are given the opportunity to transcend the footlights and to become involved in production, casting, set design, improvisational acting, and critical evaluation of the work.

ABOUT THIS BOOK

• Turn your classroom into a courtroom or newsroom. Draft a charter for the city you've just founded or organize a nineteenth-century dinner party. All this and more is possible in *Chapter 7*. These *historical fiction* exercises stress creative thinking and help students put the past in perspective.

• Chapter 8 remains a mystery until you try some of the projects! Students play the roles of victim, criminal, police officer, private investigator and everything else

in between as the solutions ultimately unfold.

• At the risk of incurring the wrath of the gods, delve into *Chapter 9*, the realm of mythology, folk tales, fairy tales, and fables. Exercises in this chapter ask students to find modern applications for age-old ideas as well as for ideas presented in class.

• Boldly go where no teacher has gone before—into the science fiction, fantasy and horror set forth for you in *Chapter 10*. Interesting concepts and moral challenges

await your students as they enter new dimensions of thought and action.

The first section of each chapter is called "Be Seated." There are over 130 ready-to-use worksheets to be done individually by students, requiring only that they have read the chosen material. This is followed by "Up Front," in which there are group activities such as improvisations, presentations, and teacher-directed discussions. Next is "To Be Continued," which is a description of long-term projects that require preparation, possible research, or extra time to complete the assignments.

Each chapter also contains a list of recommended books, their authors, and suggested reading levels. This is not an attempt to tell you what to teach. It is merely a compilation of works we have found to be enjoyable and effective. Some of the titles are there on the merit of the writing; others were chosen for the ideas put forth.

The last section of each chapter is an extensive video list of appropriate titles in the particular genre. These video lists include the book/play's original title and author. If the film/television title differs, it can be found in parentheses under the original work. The third column lists the release/air date for the film/television version. The fourth column gives the approximate running time of the program. In some cases, the first film version is the best; however, you may prefer a more modern adaptation. (NOTE: Check the ratings of theatrically released and madefor-cable films. R-rated movies can work with a mature class, but it is best to know what to expect by screening films first.)

If you are not familiar with the use of a video system, the comprehensive appendices, "Tangled Wires—Unraveling the World of Video," will help you. Here you will find the following:

- methods for organizing classwork and TV viewing
- choosing the best adaptation and dealing with the differences between text and program
- supplementary techniques to increase student interest
- controlling the classroom environment to enhance the viewing experience

- how and where to rent/purchase videotapes for classroom use
- technical problems that may be encountered during viewing
- a how-to guide for creating your own class video projects
- an all-purpose worksheet to test class comprehension and attention to TV viewing
- terms and activities to further integrate the reading and viewing experience

A special feature of *Ready-to-Use Literature Activities for Grades 7–12* is the Skills Index that will help you quickly locate all reproducible worksheets for reinforcing or teaching a particular skill pertaining to literature, such as author's purpose, plot, and setting.

Using visual aids is hardly a revolutionary concept. Filmstrips and 16mm films have long been staples in the classroom, and we must accept the fact that the students we will be teaching in the years to come are totally geared to media. Using video in your classroom can add to your students' understanding of the literary work, encourage them to read, and spark interest and discussion. Have fun with it!

Patricia Altmann Lisa Luciano

Skills Index	Analysis	Author's Purpose	Character	Conflict	Dialogue	Elements	Evaluation	Listening	Memory	Motivation	Performance	Plot	Point of View	Portfolio	Predicting Outcomes	Research	Setting	Simulation	Style	Symbols	Theme	Vocabulary
1-1. Feelings			X										,									
1–2. Get a Job!			Χ																			
1–3. Humble Pie			X																			
1–4. In the Eye of the Beholder			X																			
1–5. Message in a Bottle			X																			
1-6. Personal Best			Х																			
1–7. Picture This												Х										
1-8. This Gun for Hire												Х										
1-9. Can't Happen Here																	Х					
1–10. Stranded																	х					
1–11. Take Me Away																	Х					
1–12. Tough Enough?																	Х					
1–13. Daring Do																					х	
1-14. Scrambled Eggs																						Х
2–1. Bird's-Eye View			Х																			
2-2. Good Home Wanted			Х																			
2–3. Honest Abe			Х																			
2–4. One of a Kind			Х																			
2–5. Second Time Around			Х																			
2–6. Punch the Clock												Х										
2–7. Two by Two																					Х	
2-8. What We Stand For																					Х	
2-9. Globetrotter																	Х					
3-1. Career Counseling			Х																			
3–2. Fill Me In!			Х										10									
3–3. Give Me Liberty Or			Х																			
3–4. If Elected	$\prod$		Х																			
3–5. In the Words of Socrates			Х																			
3–6. Leisure Time			Х																			
3-7. Scaling the Heights			Х																			
3-8. Trading Places			Х																			
3-9. Where There's a Will			Х																			

	Skills Index	Analysis	Author's Purpose	Character	Conflict	Dialogue	Elements	Evaluation	Listening	Memory	Motivation	Performance	Plot	Point of View	Portfolio	Predicting Outcomes	Research	Setting	Simulation	Style	Symbols	Theme	Vocabulary
3-10.	Soul Searcher												Х									$\square$	Ш
3-11.	With or Without You												Х										
3-12.	Time Machine																	Х					Ш
3-13.	Name Game																					Ш	Х
4-1.	Tell Me Why		Х																				Ш
4-2.	Dare Me!			Х																		Ш	Ц
4-3.	Go Climb a Tree			Х																		$\square$	Ш
4-4.	You Can Quote Me					Х																	
4-5.	Details, Details							Х															
4-6.	"E" for Effort							Х															Ш
4-7.	Coming to a Theater Near You												Х										
4-8.	If the Fates Allow												Х							x			
4-9.	Sign of the Times												Х										$\sqcup$
4-10.	Turnabout is Fair Play												Х										$\sqcup$
4-11.	Cover Me																š				L	Х	Ш
4-12.	The Right Stuff																					Х	
5-1.	In Case of Fire			Х																			
5-2.	It's All in the Cards			Х																			Ш
5-3.	Matchmaker			Х																			
5-4.	Mr. or Miss Right			Х																			
5-5.	Most Likely to			Х																			
5-6.	Now Starring			Х																			
5-7.	The Doctor Is In			Х																			$\bigsqcup$
5-8.	You've Got Your Troubles,																						
	I've Got Mine			Х																			
5-9.	Back to the Future												Х										
5-10.	Be Advised												Х										
5-11.	Tears of a Clown												Х										
5-12.	Anytime, Anyplace																	Х					
5-13.	Picture This																	Х					
5-14.	Tell Me Another One																					Х	
5-15.	Everything Olde is New Again																						Х

Skills Index	Analysis	Author's Purpose	Character	Conflict	Dialogue	Elements	Evaluation	Listening	Memory	Motivation	Performance	Plot	Point of View	Portfolio	Predicting Outcomes	Research	Setting	Simulation	Style	Symbols	Theme	Vocabulary
5-16. Dedicated to the One I Love			Х																			
5-17. Name That Tune			Х																			Ц
5-18. Help, I Need Somebody																Х						Ц
6-1. Casting Call			Х																			Ц
6-2. Double Standards			Х																			
6-3. 3-D			Х																			
6-4. Time Warp					Х																	
6-5. Front Row, Center							Х															
6-6. Taking Transcription												Х										
6-7. Vital Information												Х										
6-8. Token Gesture																				Х		
6-9. Common Sense																					Х	
6-10. Fall in Line!						Х																
6-11. Ready When You Are, C. B.											Х											
6-12. Drama Portfolio														Х								
7-1. Mistaken Identity			Х																			
7-2. Precious Time	T		Х																			
7-3. R.S.V.P.			Х																			
7-4. Take a Stand!			Х																			
7-5. Don't Look Back!							Х															
7-6. Ground Rules	T						X															
7-7. Talking Leaves							Х														L	
7-8. Extra, Extra!																	Х				L	
7-9. Frontiers																	х					
7-10. I Want to Go Back																	Х					
7-11. Back Talk																		L			L	Х
8-1. Catch Me If You Can	Х																	L				
8-2. Any Last Requests?			X																		L	
8-3. No More Mr. Nice Guy			X														L				L	
8-4. Scared Straight			Х																	L		
8-5. Masquerade							X			6												
8-6. I've Seen That Face Before									Х													

	Skills Index	Analysis	Author's Purpose	Character	Conflict	Dialogue	Elements	Evaluation	Listening	Memory	Motivation	Performance	Plot	Point of View	Portfolio	Predicting Outcomes	Research	Setting	Simulation	Style	Symbols	Theme	Vocabulary
8-7.	Show and Tell									Х													
8-8.	Dream On																		Х				
8-9.	Stop, Look, and Listen			Х																			
8-10.	Somebody's Watching Me										Х												
8-11.	Gone Fishing												Х										
8-12.	Cliffhanger															Х							
8-13.	Front Page News																Х						
9-1.	At the Movies	Х																					
9-2.	Holding Out for a Hero	Х																					
9-3.	Family Honor			Х																			
9-4.	Do You Believe in Magic?	Г						Х															П
9-5.	Larger Than Life	Г						х															
9-6.	The Real Scoop	Г						х															
9-7.	Thunder or Thor's Hammer?							х															
9-8.	Word to the Wise							Х															П
9-9.	You've Got the Power							Х		П			Г										П
9-10.	Lived Happily Ever After?												Х										
9-11.	Rambo and the Three Bears												Х										
9-12.	Stop the Presses!												Х										П
9-13.	Lifestyles of the Rich	Г								Г			Г										
	and Famous																	х					
9-14.	For the Record			Х																			
9-15.	Interview Evaluation Sheet							Х															
9-16.	Point of Origin																						Х
10-1.	My Buddy			Х																			
10-2.	Fright Night						Х																
10-3.	Separate Ways						Х																
10-4.	Whatchamacallit?						х																П
10-5.	See No Evil							Х															
10-6.	Wings of Tomorrow							Х															П
10-7.	Is There a Doctor in																						
	the House?										Χ												

x

Skills Index	Analysis	Author's Purpose	Character	Conflict	Dialogue	Elements	Evaluation	Listening	Memory	Motivation	Performance	Plot	Point of View	Portfolio	Predicting Outcomes	Research	Setting	Simulation	Style	Symbols	Theme	Vocabulary
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10-9. The New Kid in Town	Γ																Х					
10-10. Will the Sun Rise Tomorrow?																	Х			П		
10-11. Method to Your Madness																				П		х
10-12. Are You Game?						Х														П	П	П
10-13. Eternally Yours						Х														П		П
10-14. Simon Says																		х		П	П	П
	Γ																			П		
																				П		П
																						П
	Γ																			П		П
	Γ																					П
																						П
	Г		Г								Г											П
																						П
	Г								Г		$\vdash$											
				Г	Г						Г											П
	T																				Г	П
,				Г						Г	Г											П
	Γ			Г				Г	Г								Г				Г	П
		Г				Г				Г							Г					Г
						Г			Γ	Г							Г				Г	Г
	Γ					Г			Г		Г										Г	Г
	Г					Г			Г	Γ			Г				Г				Г	
	Γ	Γ				Γ			Γ	Г							Γ	Г	Г	П	Г	Г
	Τ	Г							Γ	Γ	Γ						Γ		Г		Г	Г
	Γ								Γ	Γ											Г	
	Г							Г		Γ	Г				Г					Г	Г	Γ
	Τ	Γ	Г			Γ			Γ	Γ					Г		Г	Г		Г	Г	Γ
	Γ					Г		Γ	Г	Г										Г	Г	
	Τ	Γ	Г							Γ	Г								Γ	Г	Г	Γ
	Τ		Γ			Γ				Г								Γ		Г		Γ

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# ---- Chapter 1 ----

# - ADVENTURE ==

Be Seated • 2

**Feelings** 

Get a Job!

**Humble Pie** 

In the Eye of the Beholder

Message in a Bottle

**Personal Best** 

**Picture This** 

This Gun for Hire

Can't Happen Here

Stranded

Take Me Away

Tough Enough?

Daring Do

Scrambled Eggs

Up Front • 19

And the Winner Is . . .

**Defend Yourself** 

**Coming Attractions** 

**New Attitude** 

To Be Continued • 20

Sing His Praises

And Awaaay We Go!

**Home Sweet Home** 

Recommended Book List • 20

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# — Be Seated —

#### 1-1. FEELINGS

The plot of a novel is often the direct result of the emotions of a character. To begin this activity, a brainstorming session is necessary to make a general listing of emotions. From this list students will decide what emotions are displayed in the work and find examples that support their answers.

#### 1-2. **GET A JOB!**

Students need to be acquainted with classified ads before attempting this project. A classified ad that would be found in the "situations available" section of a newspaper will be written for the character. Students should keep in mind the skills of the character and also the experiences the character has had.

#### 1-3. HUMBLE PIE

Characters in adventure novels must be sure of their capabilities. It is the student's job to decide if this attitude is confidence or arrogance. A character must be chosen and a decision must be made concerning his/her attitude. Three actions must be given along with explanations to support the student's point of view.

#### 1-4. IN THE EYE OF THE BEHOLDER

The perception of a hero's lifestyle in adventure novels can be interpreted in two different ways. One person might view the action as an exciting fantasy while someone else might find it a frightening and reckless experience. Students must defend and explain one of the following statements using examples from the book to support their opinion: (a) The hero/heroine leads a fun, exciting life, or (b) The hero/heroine leads a scary, dangerous life.

#### 1-5. MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE

One of the characters is being held captive and has one chance to send a message for help. The students may not use the character's name or a picture. Their job is to create a design or phrase that is indicative of the chosen character. Collect the projects and have the class guess who the subject is.

#### 1-6. PERSONAL BEST

Students usually have their own hero in a story, even if no one else agrees with their choice. First, they will evaluate their personal standards for heroism. Based on ADVENTURE 3

this, they will choose a character from the story that comes closest to this ideal. In a composition entitled "My Personal Hero," students will explain their choice.

#### 1-7. PICTURE THIS

Since many adventure books are packed full of action, they lend themselves easily to comic strips. In this project, have students choose an event in the book and create a six-frame comic strip that highlights the main action of the book. Emphasize that artistic ability is not mandatory: Stick figures are sufficient as long as students supplement the visual with bits of dialogue.

#### 1-8. THIS GUN FOR HIRE

Heroes are never seen picking up their checks in novels. In this project the student will have the chance to decide how much the hero should be paid. A list itemizing the deeds performed must be created along with a price for each and a total salary.

#### 1-9. CAN'T HAPPEN HERE

Foreign settings can be confusing and often distance the students from the action. When you feel the class is familiar enough with the text, have them move the story to their hometown. They should note specific places where the plot will now take place in their imaginary version. To conclude the exercise, they must explain how the story will change due to the new location. Decide in advance whether to include a time shift in the exercise, as this will complicate the assignment.

#### 1-10. STRANDED

Your class is trapped in a remote setting similar to that found in the story. They must decide what three items they would most like to have with them. Their choices do not have to include necessities for survival. They will follow up by explaining their choices.

#### 1-11. TAKE ME AWAY

Many settings in adventure books are glamorous and scenic. The student will design a travel poster advertising the story's locale. The following must be included: (a) the city's or the country's name, (b) a visual representation (student drawings or cutouts), and (c) a catchy slogan, such as "I Love New York," "Virginia Is for Lovers," or "Come Say, G'Day."

4 ADVENTURE

#### 1-12. TOUGH ENOUGH?

Using the setting of the novel, the student should imagine himself/herself to be an adventurer who must journey through this territory. Taking note of the climate and time period, a survival kit will be created. As an option, you may have the students actually assemble the kit.

#### 1-13. DARING DO

Courage is a universal theme in most adventure stories. Based on this idea, the student will create an acrostic poem. You may decide whether the class should use courage in general or refer to specific acts in the novel.

#### 1-14. SCRAMBLED EGGS

The challenge of a word game makes the tedious task of vocabulary not quite such a chore. Using the title of the book, each student will make up as many words as he/she can. To add a degree of difficulty, stipulate that the words must in some way refer to the story.

Name		
Period	Date	

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# **FEELINGS**

Directions: What a character is feeling can often give a clue about his/her future actions. First, list general emotions. Now think of events in the story that were a result of a character listening to his/her heart instead of his/her head. Was it the best thing to do?

EMOTIONS	ACTION	RESULT (good/bad—why?)
		·
3		
		,

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Name		1–2
Period	Date	
		GET A JOB!
Directions:		d experiences of the main character. If he/she suddenly write a want ad that person would be likely to answer.
Example: 1	Robin Hood	<u>WANTED</u>
		Position available for an athletic nature lover. Leadership qualities and sense of fair play a must. Salary varies.
		Call Sherwood Employment Agency 1–800–SHERIFF Ask for Marian
Character	:	
		<del></del>
	<u> </u>	
	- 1111 / 1	

-	_
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Name		
Period	Date	

### **HUMBLE PIE**

Directions: Characters in adventure novels are required to do spectacular things and therefore must be sure of their abilities. You must decide if this means they are confident or arrogant. Choose a character, list three of his/her actions and explain which category it belongs in. Remember, confidence is believing in yourself because of positive past experiences. Arrogance is a conceited assumption that you can do anything without any proof of your capabilities.

Character:	
Character:	Circle One
Action 1	Confident
Explanation	Arrogant
Action 2	Confident
Explanation	Arrogant
Action 3	Confident
Explanation	Arrogant
Overall, I think this character's actions are confident/arrogant (circle one) because	
	an A

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	_4

Name				1–4
Period	Date			
	IN THE EYE OF	THE B	EHOLD	ER
Directions:	The amazing events of an adventure think a character's actions are a w carefully considering your persona Explain your reaction and list examp	onderful fa l thoughts,	antasy or j , choose or	ust reckless behavior. After
	he hero/heroine leads a fun, exciting li	)	check one	
EXPLANA	ATION:			The same of the sa
		,		
EXAMPLI	ES:			
1.				
2.				
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4.				

Name			*	
valic				•

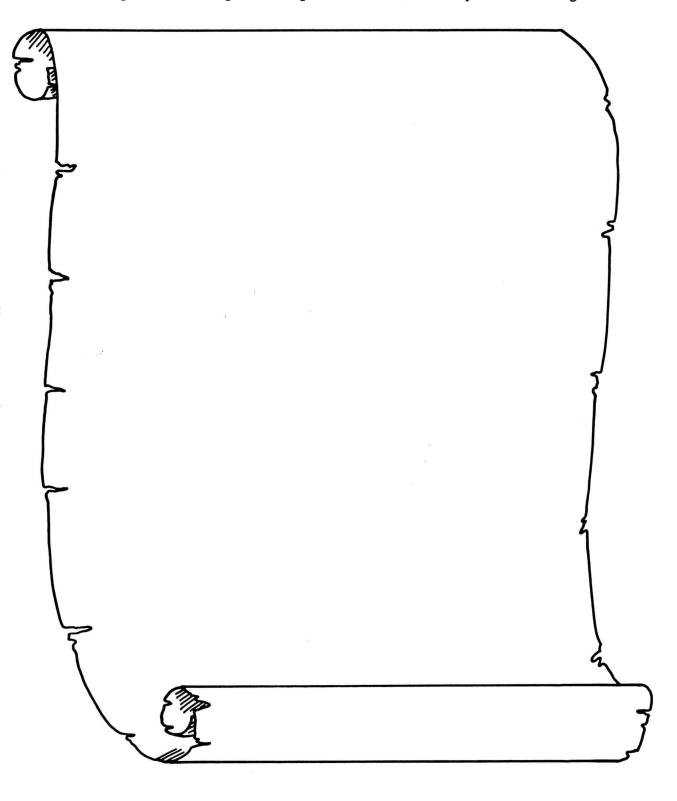
Date .

Period \_

1-5

**MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE** 

Directions: One of the story's characters is being held prisoner, but has a chance to send a message for help. Without using his/her name or picture, create a design or phrase that would be recognized as coming from that person. Be clear, but hurry. Time's running out!



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Name	1–6
Period Date	
PERS	SONAL BEST
Directions: Are heroes born or are they cre for heroism? After listing qualit the story who most closely mea	ated out of necessity? What are your personal standards ies you feel a hero should have, choose a character from sures up to these ideals.
HEROIC QUALITIES:	
My personal hero would be	because
An example of this was when	



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Name			1-7
Period	Date	PICTURE THIS	
	sion series. Examples you are reading, try to and draw a comic str exciting lives, so your as well as complex or	: Superman, Wonder Woman. Us o visualize the main characters. C ip that basically tells the story. I work should reflect this by bein	ten the basis for films and televi- sing the descriptions in the book Choose the most important events Remember, heroes/heroines lead g colorful. Simple drawings work ine pictures and use them. Don't hlight the action.
Title:			
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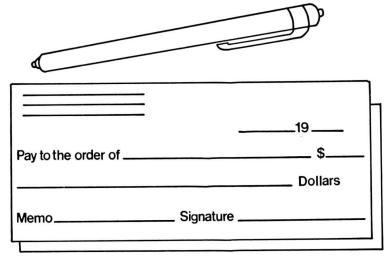
Name		
Period	Date	

# THIS GUN FOR HIRE

Directions: When was the last time you saw a hero collect a paycheck for all that hard work? It's your responsibility to decide how much the character's services are worth. List the noteworthy activities, give a price for each, and calculate the total salary.

ACTIVITY	PRICE

TOTAL \_\_\_\_



Name	
Period	Date
	CAN'T HAPPEN HERE
nov tov	metimes it is hard to imagine a setting that is far away or in another time period. You we have the opportunity to change that. Move the story's characters to your homewn. Think about how the events would change. Be sure to include specific places here the action will occur.
ACTION:	
LOCATION:	
CHANGES:	
ACTION:	
LOCATION:	
CHANGES:	
j.	
ACTION:	
LOCATION:	
CHANGES:	

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Name		
Period	Date	

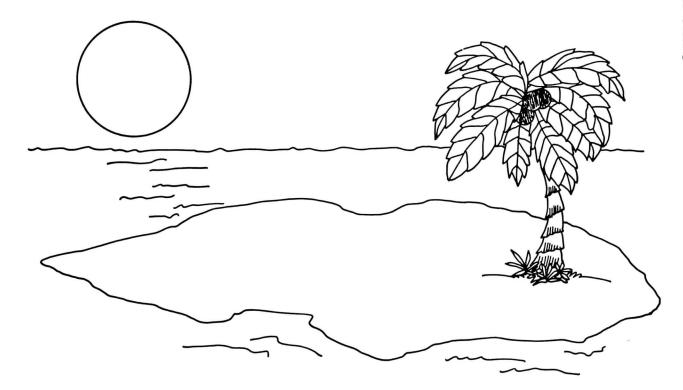
# **STRANDED**

Directions: You are stranded on a deserted island. Assuming you have what you need to survive, what three other things would you bring along? Remember, you may be stuck there a long time. Explain why the chosen items are so important.

1. I would bring	because
2. Next, I would want	because

Illustrate the chosen items below.

3. Finally, I would have to have \_\_\_



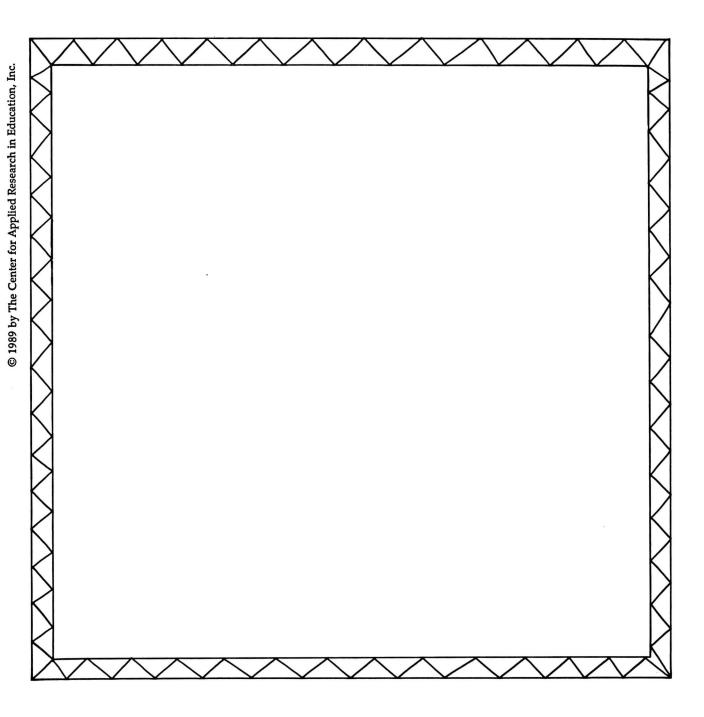
because

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Name		
Period	Date	

# TAKE ME AWAY

Directions: You work for a travel agency. It is your job to design a poster advertising the setting of the story. Use the space below to sketch your first draft. When complete, transfer this design to another sheet and finish the project. Be sure to include the city's or the country's name, a catchy slogan, such as "I Love New York," and something visual (drawings or cutouts).



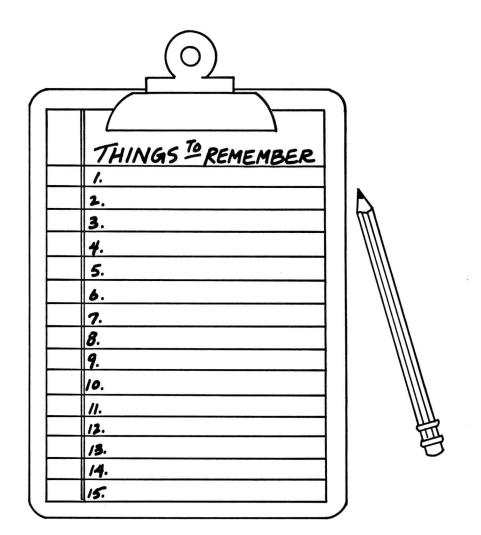
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Name	
Period	Date

### **TOUGH ENOUGH?**

Directions: You are a world-famous adventurer who will take any job no matter how difficult. You have been hired to locate the main character of the novel. Taking into account the time period and geographical conditions of the setting, prepare a survival kit to take on your journey. Remember, you are totally on your own, so think carefully about what you will need.

Setting:	(location)		(time period)		
Important Factors: geography, climate, dangers, etc.					



Period	Date _
Dinastiona	A have thereine muse
Directions:	A hero/heroine mus character of the story word <i>courage</i> . Each p

Name .



# **DARING DO**

Directions: A hero/heroine must have courage to accomplish difficult tasks. Think about the main character of the story you are reading, and then write a poem using each letter of the word courage. Each phrase should in some way represent the character.

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Use the space below to do an illustration or another poem on a theme of your choice.

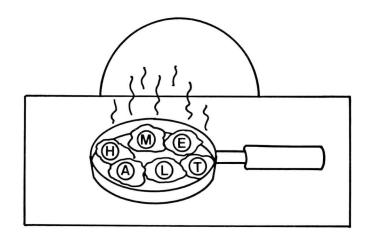
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Name	1–14
Period Date	

*Directions*: As a mind-stretching exercise, see how many words you can form by rearranging the title of the story you are reading. Your answers should be at least four letters long. For an extra challenge, try to make words that relate to the story.

**SCRAMBLED EGGS** 

TITLE:		
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# — Up Front ——

#### AND THE WINNER IS . . .

Your students are special guests at the annual "Fictional Hero of the Year" awards banquet. Students will choose who they feel is most deserving of this honor. They will then write an introduction for this person that includes his or her most notable achievements. Keeping in mind the character's unique personality and speech patterns, they will write and deliver before the class an acceptance speech for the award. (As an added bonus, give award ribbons to the best speakers.)

#### **DEFEND YOURSELF**

A lack of information can often lead someone to misinterpret a person's actions. Is the person prompted by selfishness or selflessness? It will be the student's job to analyze the character's motivations. First, have the students brainstorm to form a list of the major plot events. Next, organize the class into debate groups. Each group will pick a point of view and defend it using specific examples from the novel.

#### **COMING ATTRACTIONS**

Many chapters end in cliffhangers. At the end of every section, have the students predict what is going to happen next. Stress to the class not to "peek" ahead but just to use the clues the author leaves and their imagination. There will probably be differences of opinion. Have the class vote on the most likely future event. Keep a running score as to how often students guess correctly.

#### **NEW ATTITUDE**

If the adventure story takes place in a previous time period, the students can examine the action of the hero and see if he or she would feel the need to act in the same way today. An example of this would be the following: A man insulted in public in the past may have been forced into a duel, whereas today the action taken would be very different, if any action would be needed. Select a scene and have the students act it out as originally written. Starting with the same premise, the scene will now be acted out using modern-day norms. Since the activity is based on improvisation, it is possible to have many conclusions, allowing for the involvement of several groups.

## — To Be Continued —

#### SING HIS PRAISES

This project requires some legwork on your part. First, you must acquaint the students with the ballad format. Many books and records are available in libraries. Choose a character as the subject and list actions, appearance, and personality traits. Students will then work in groups formulating phrases based on these lists. It will be the groups' responsibility to present a visual presentation to the class. Some suggested techniques would be acting out to narration, and using slides or pictures.

#### AND AWAAAY WE GO!

An interesting long-term project would be to trace the characters' movement throughout the novel. If the places exist, a standard map can be used or you may choose to have the students design an original. A fictional place would necessitate the student designing his/her own map based on details provided in the story.

#### **HOME SWEET HOME**

It seems that in adventure novels the hero literally appears from nowhere. Using his/her imagination and information given in the novel, the student will visualize the hero's home. First, an initial layout of the character's apartment/house needs to be designed. Based on this the student will create a three-dimensional diorama. Encourage your students to be creative and to use any available mediums (clay, paper, wood, and the like).

## ---- Recommended Book List ----

#### For Grades 7 and 8

The Prince and the Pauper, by Mark Twain Swiss Family Robinson, by Johann Wyss 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea, by Jules Verne

#### For Grades 9 and 10

Around the World in Eighty Days, by Jules Verne Little Drummer Girl, by John LeCarre Robin Hood, by E. Charles Vivian

#### For Grades 11 and 12

The Count of Monte Cristo, by Alexander Dumas Ivanhoe, by Sir Walter Scott Rumor of War, by Philip Caputo
The Scarlet Pimpernel, by Baroness Orczy

# ---- Video List -

TITLE	AUTHOR	PRODUCED	TIME
Airport	A. Hailey	1970	137:00
Around the World in 80 Days	J. Verne	1956	170:00
Battle Cry	L. Uris	1954	148:00
Beau Geste	C. Wren	1939	120:00
Bell for Adano	J. Hersey	1945	103:00
Ben-Hur	L. Wallace	1959	217:00
Billy Budd	H. Melville	1962	125:00
Bridges at Toko-Ri	J. Michener	1954	104:00
Brothers Karamazov	F. Dostoyevsky	1958	146:00
Caine Mutiny	H. Wouk	1954	125:00
Call of the Wild	J. London	1935	81:00
*Captains and the Kings	T. Caldwell	1979	480:00
Captains Courageous	V. Fleming	1937	116:00
Count of Monte Cristo	A. Dumas	1934	119:00
Deerslayer	J. F. Cooper	<b>1957</b>	78:00
<sup>+</sup> Deliverance	J. Dickey	1972	109:00
Eagle Has Landed	J. Higgins	1977	123:00
Exodus	L. Uris	1960	213:00
*Far Pavillions	M. M. Kaye	1984	300:00
Farewell to Arms	E. Hemingway	1932	78:00
For Whom the Bell Tolls	E. Hemingway	1943	170:00
From Here to Eternity	J. Jones	1953	118:00

<sup>\*</sup>TV mini-series

<sup>+ &</sup>quot;R" rated film

TITLE	AUTHOR	PRODUCED	TIME
Hawaii	J. Michener	1966	186:00
Indiana Jones and the			
Temple of Doom	W. Huyck, G. Katz	1984	118:00
Joseph Andrews	H. Fielding	1978	103:00
Kidnapped	R. L. Stevenson	1960	97:00
Last of the Mohicans	J. F. Cooper	1936	91:00
Lawrence of Arabia	R. Kiernan	1962	222:00
Les Miserables	V. Hugo	1935	108:00
Light in the Forest	C. Richter	1958	93:00
Little Drummer Girl	J. LeCarre	1984	130:00
Man in the Iron Mask	A. Dumas	1939	110:00
Man Without a Country	E. E. Hale	1973	73:00
Master of Ballantrae	R. L. Stevenson	1953	89:00
Mutiny on the Bounty	Nordhoff and Hall	1935	132:00
Papillon	H. Charriere	1973	150:00
Prince and the Pauper	M. Twain	1937	120:00
Prisoner of Zenda	A. Hope	1937	101:00
Robin Hood			
(Adventures of Robin Hood)	E. C. Vivian	1938	102:00
Rumor of War	P. Caputo	1980	200:00
Sacketts	L. L'Amour	1979	200:00
Sand Pebbles	R. McKenna	1966	193:00
Scarlet Pimpernel	<b>Baroness Orczy</b>	1934	95:00
Sea Wolf	J. London	1941	90:00
Swiss Family Robinson	J. Wyss	1960	128:00
Tom Jones	H. Fielding	1963	129:00
True Grit	C. Portis	1969	128:00
War Games	D. Bischoff	1983	110:00

<sup>\*</sup>TV mini-series

<sup>+ &</sup>quot;R" rated film

# ----- Chapter 2 -----

# — ANIMALS ENVIRONMENT NATURE

Be Seated • 24

Bird's-Eye View

Good Home Wanted

Honest Abe

One of a Kind

Second Time Around

Punch the Clock

Two by Two

What We Stand For

Globetrotter

Up Front • 35

Don't Do It

Tell It Like It Is Paving Paradise All the World's a Stage

Turn, Turn, Turn

To Be Continued • 36

Personification Unlimited

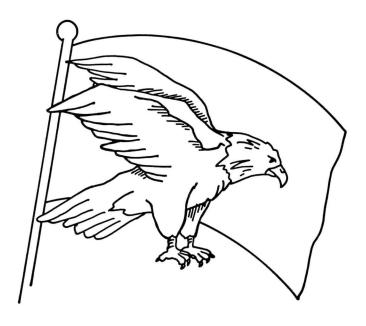
All Donations Gratefully Accepted

Rescue You

Sounds of Silence

Recommended Book List • 37

Video List • 37



## —— Be Seated ——

#### 2-1. BIRD'S-EYE VIEW

This exercise tests the student's skills of observation. After choosing a character from the story, he/she will decide what real-life person most resembles that animal. The common characteristics can be voice, appearance, or personality.

#### 2-2. GOOD HOME WANTED

Exotic animals would appear to make interesting pets, but a great deal of time and effort must go into their care. Assuming the subject of the story is not a traditional pet, have each student imagine that he/she is responsible for the welfare of this animal. Things to consider would be food, shelter, grooming, and any special precautions.

#### 2-3. HONEST ABE

Human beings and animals often share the same characteristics. Select five qualities displayed by a character in the story and have the student list real-life people who exhibit the same traits. Examples should be provided,

#### 2-4. ONE OF A KIND

Like humans, every animal has a unique personality. If the story contains more than one main character, the student will compare and contrast the noteworthy qualities of any two. Using this information he/she will decide which of the two is more likable and why.

#### 2-5. SECOND TIME AROUND

Assuming reincarnation is possible, ask the student which of the characters in the book he/she would most like to come back as. The student will decide whom he/she would like to be, give reasons why, and explain what he/she likes/dislikes most about no longer being human.

#### 2-6. PUNCH THE CLOCK

During the course of a day people follow a consistent ritual of activities and, though we do not take note of it, so do animals. Seeing through the eyes of the main character, each student will create a 24-hour schedule. The student should keep in mind the type of animal, the environment, potential dangers, and food and shelter.

#### 2-7. TWO BY TWO

If your story is centered on the theme of survival, pose the following question to your class. "If you had the power of Noah and there was room for only one more pair of animals on the Ark, which breed would deserve to survive and why?" Stress to the students that their opinions should be based on reason and not sentiment.

#### 2-8. WHAT WE STAND FOR

Many citizens are not aware of the significance of their national symbol. After first making a list of the country's attributes, an animal will be selected from the novel or elsewhere, as the new national symbol. Students must justify their choices.

#### 2-9. GLOBETROTTER

The class is going on an expedition to either the sea, the mountains, the desert, the jungle, or the forest. Each student must create a visual representation of the scene, make a listing of five things unique to this place, and write a brief narrative about the most memorable moment of his or her adventure.

Name		•			Janes .	2-1
Period <u> </u>	Date BIRD'S-	- <b>EY</b> ]	E VIEW		inn	
	Have you ever noticed that some p and talk? Observe people around He/she can be a family member, person (or make a drawing if no picture or drawing of the animal the explanation of why you chose that positive of negative.	you a a frie icture ney re t pers	and choose and, or even a is available semble next son. Remem	one who you a celebrity e) and attace to it. Beneal ber, the co	ou feel is a y. Get a pict th it to this s ath the pictumparison ca	nimal-like." cure of that cheet. Put a cure write an n be either
Examples:	"cackles like a hen," "walks like a du	ck," "	swims like a	fish," "sing	gs like a cana	ary"
Person:			Animal:			
	TION:					

Name Period	Date
	GOOD HOME WANTED
	Having an unusual pet sounds like fun, but a lot of work goes into its care. You have suddenly become the owner of one of the animals in the story. What special arrangements would you have to make to ensure its health and welfare?
Animal:	
FOOD:	
SHELTE	R:
GROOM	IING:
EXERCIS	SE:
SAFETY	PRECAUTIONS:

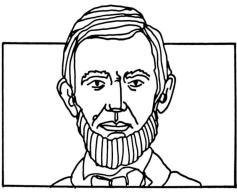
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# **HONEST ABE**

Directions: People and animals share many of the same qualities. Both feel fear, love, pain, etc. Choose five personality characteristics shown by the animals in the story and list people who have shown the same feelings. Explain each of your answers.

CHARACTER	PERSONALITY TRAIT	PERSON
1.		
Explanation:		
2.		
Explanation:		
3.		
Explanation:		
4.		
Explanation:		
5.		
Explanation:		



Name						2–4
Period	Date					
		ONE O	F A KIND			
stor	e humans, every a y and compare/co hem you like bette	ntrast their mo	nique personal st memorable o	ity. Choose t qualities. Bas	wo charact ed on this, c	ers from the lecide which
	aracter 1)				re both	(quality)
2. However, _	(character 1)	is	(	, but	(altamatic	is
	(character 1) bed ality)					
3. Therefore, I	like	(character)		better becau	se	•
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Period	Date	

# **SECOND TIME AROUND**

Directions: You have the opportunity to be reincarnated as any of the animals in the story you are reading. Which one would it be and why? Think about what you would like and dislike most about no longer being human. Do you have more freedom or more restrictions?

Animal:	
Why?	
Like:	
Dislike:	
Freedoms:	
Restrictions:	
Overall, I would / would not (circle one) like to be an animal because .	
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Name	2-6
Period Date	
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# **PUNCH THE CLOCK**

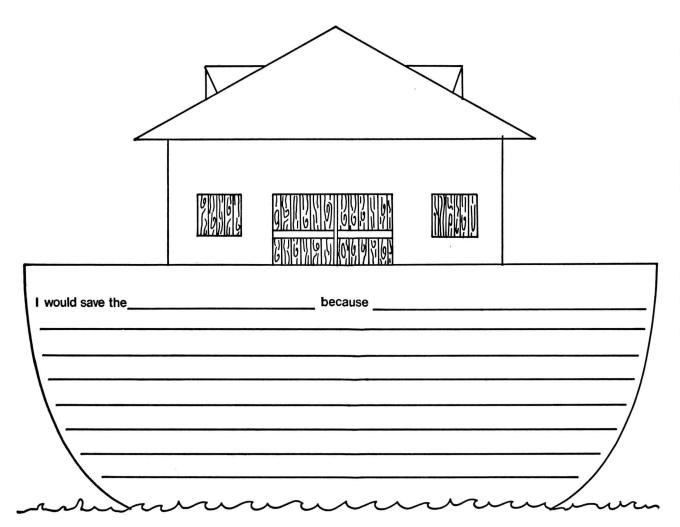
Directions: Even though we usually do not take note of it, animals spend their time doing many different things. Imagining yourself to be the main character in the novel, make a list of daily activities. Keep in mind a creature's instinctual need for food and shelter, and its reaction to the environment and potential dangers.

ГІМЕ	ACTIVITY	
	*	

Name	
Doriod	Data

### **TWO BY TWO**

Directions: If you had the power of Noah and there was room for only one more pair of animals on the Ark, which breed would deserve to survive and why? Remember, your answer should be based on reason and not sentiment.



	Date	2-8
	WHAT WE STAND FOR	
Directions	Do you know how the national symbol was chosen are create a new one. Make a list of qualities this count animal that best represents them.	
Qualities:		
I believe	would be the	best new national symbol because
Illustrate	your choice below.	

Name —— Period —	Date	
	GLOBETROTTER	
Directions:	You are going on an expedition to either the sea, the mountains, the desert, the jungle, or the forest. First show what you think the location looks like (picture or drawing), then list five things that would be found only in this particular place. Finally, briefly describe the most memorable moment of your adventure.	
L	LOCATION:	Ī
Things tha	at are unique to this place:	
2		
3		
4		
5		

On the back of this sheet, describe your most memorable moment.

# — Up Front —

#### DON'T DO IT

A defenseless animal from the story has been cornered by a ruthless hunter. Class volunteers have three minutes to convince that person not to pull the trigger. Students will role play both sides as they ad-lib their way through the situation.

#### TELL IT LIKE IT IS

After the class is acquainted with the story, have volunteers give a voice to one of the characters. Using the given voice, they will retell a situation from the animal's point of view. Remind them to include tone, inflection, volume, and enunciation.

#### **PAVING PARADISE**

Present your students with the following hypothetical situation: A popular neighborhood park, which is also a bird sanctuary, is going to be converted into a shopping mall. Divide the class into groups and have them take the points of view of each of the following: conservation group members, land developers, local residents, park employees, and store owners.

This debate should show the complexity of the issue.

#### ALL THE WORLD'S A STAGE

As an interesting group project, divide the class into three equal sections. In each section, students will imagine themselves to be an object (living or not) in one of the following locations: a tropical island, a city park, or a large forest. This improvisation should be indicative of a usual day in each of these locations, and calls for student interaction.

#### TURN, TURN, TURN

Have students form a circle. Pick either a season or a place in nature, which it will be the class's job to describe. Going around the circle in order, each student will add a word, which is grammatically correct, in order to complete a sentence that you will begin. When your sentence reaches a logical conclusion, have the next student pick a new topic and begin another sentence. When students give an incorrect response, they must sit down and are eliminated from the game. Keep playing till only one student is left.

## — To Be Continued —

#### PERSONIFICATION UNLIMITED

As an exercise to increase the student's awareness of the environment, have him/her obtain a picture of an inanimate object. After attaching the chosen subject to a matte board, the student will stand behind the board and "become" that thing. Creating a voice and personality, he/she will tell about the most exciting event that the object has ever witnessed. The rest of the class will be responsible for asking questions.

#### ALL DONATIONS GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED

If you want your class to become aware of and be involved in the world around them, this is a project for you. Students will be divided into four groups, with each group being assigned an organization to research. First, a letter will be drafted requesting information on the organization's goals and activities. After receiving a response, each group will write and present a report to the class. If appropriate, have students pick the one they favor, collect money, and send a donation.

Below you will find some representative agencies. There is a wide variety to choose from; the final decision is yours.

Cousteau Society 930 W. 21 St. Norfolk, Va. 23517

Greenpeace 1611 Connecticut Ave. N.W. Washington, D.C. 20070 Animal Protection Inst. Of America P .O. BOX 22505

Sierra Club 530 Bush St. San Francisco, Ca. 95822

Sacramento, Ca. 95822

#### **RESCUE YOU**

Very often animals in novels are threatened by various factors. It will be the student's job to compile a list of endangered species. From the list, an animal will be chosen as the subject of a nature poster that must include a slogan. To ensure that research has been done, have students submit their lists and sources.

#### SOUNDS OF SILENCE

Screen an excerpt from a film that shows nature, but turn off the sound. Ask the students to pick music they think fits the mood of the film. There are many nature series being broadcast on television that you might tape. Or, if possible, obtain a copy of the film *Animals Are Beautiful People*, available from Warner Home Video.

# ---- Recommended Book List -----

#### For Grades 7 and 8

Black Beauty, by Anna Sewell Born Free, by Joy Adamson The Incredible Journey, by Sheila Burnford The Sea Otter's Struggle, by Jane H. Bailey

#### For Grades 9 and 10

All Creatures Great and Small, by James Herriot The Snow Goose, by Paul Gallico Watership Down, by Richard Adams

#### For Grades 11 and 12

Alive: Story of the Andes Survivors, by Piers Paul Read On the Beach, by Nevil Shute A Whale for the Killing, by Farley Mowat

# ---- Video List ·

TITLE	AUTHOR	PRODUCED	TIME
Alive: Story of the Andes			
Survivors (Hey! I'm Alive)	P. Read	1975	78:00
All Creatures Great and Small	J. Herriot	1974	92:00
Black Beauty	A. Sewell	1971	106:00
Black Stallion	W. Farley	1979	103:00
Bless the Beasts and Children	G. Swarthout	1972	109:00
Born Free	J. Adamson	1966	95:00
Call of the Wild	J. London	1976	100:00
Doctor Doolittle	H. Lofting	1967	152:00
Fox and the Hound	H. Simon	1981	83:00
Greystoke: Legend of Tarzan	E. R. Burroughs	1984	129:00
Lassie Come Home	E. Knight	1943	88:00
My Friend Flicka	M. O'Hara	1943	89:00

TITLE	AUTHOR	PRODUCED	TIME
National Velvet	E. Bagnold	1945	125:00
Never Cry Wolf	F. Mowat	1983	105:00
Old Yeller	F. Gibson	1957	83:00
On the Beach	N. Shute	1959	134:00
Quest for Fire	J. H. Rosny	1982	97:00
Red Pony	J. Steinbeck	1949	89:00
Ring of Bright Water	G. Maxwell	1967	107:00
Secret of N.I.M.H.	R. O'Brien	1982	82:00
Watership Down	R. Adams	1978	92:00
Whale for the Killing	F. Mowat	1981	150:00
Yearling	M. K. Rawlings	1946	134:00

# ---- Chapter 3 ----

# **BIOGRAPHY**

Be Seated • 40

Career Counseling
Fill Me In!
Give Me Liberty Or . . .
If Elected . . .
In the Words of Socrates
Leisure Time
Scaling the Heights
Trading Places
Where There's a Will
Soul Searcher
With or Without You

Time Machine

Name Game

Up Front • 56

Shrunken Heads

And So On

The Grass Is Always Greener

Worth a Thousand Words?

To Be Continued • 56

Do You Recognize This Voice?

**Mystery Guest** 

The Life and Times Of . . .

Recommended Book List • 57

Video List • 58



## — Be Seated —

#### 3-1. CAREER COUNSELING

Celebrities are often asked what they would choose if they had to choose another career. Keeping in mind the subject's education, skills, and personality, each student will choose a new career for that person. Students should be able to justify their choices.

#### **3-2. FILL ME IN!**

Much information is asked about a person on a job application. In this project, the student will fill out a job application as if he/she were the subject of the reading. This assignment discovers if the student retains facts and understands the person's character.

#### 3-3. GIVE ME LIBERTY OR . . .

How many people would be willing to die for their convictions? The student will choose an issue the subject would feel strongly about and write a letter to the editor of a newspaper as that person expressing his/her feelings. Emphasize to the class that they should keep in mind the time period and major issues of the day.

#### 3-4. IF ELECTED . . .

Essays often show how much a student has learned about a person. In this assignment, each member of the class will decide if the subject would make a good president. First, a listing of the qualities needed by a strong leader will be made. Second, the qualities the subject possesses should be circled on the worksheet. Incorporating these attributes into a composition, the student will justify his/her answer,

#### 3-5. IN THE WORDS OF SOCRATES

After reading about a person, students should be familiar with that individual's philosophy of life. After writing a motto that represents what the person stood for, each student will write a composition explaining how the saying is exemplified by the subject's actions. Students can use an original expression or one that is well-known,

#### 3-6. LEISURE TIME

In the multi-media world we live in, we have available many selections on television and in the magazines we read. From what the students have learned BIOGRAPHY 41

concerning the main subject, they should select the magazines the person would subscribe to and the television shows they would watch if they were living today.

#### 3-7. SCALING THE HEIGHTS

Disregarding the person's accomplishments, this time the student will make observations about the subject as a human being. Based on the list of personality traits given on the worksheet, the subject will be rated on a 1 to 5 scale, with 1 being low and 5 being high. After explaining his/her choice, he/she will write a short character sketch of the subject using what was discovered from the list.

#### 3-8. TRADING PLACES

Time to turn the tables. In this exercise your students get to hand out the grades. Based on what they have learned during the course of their reading, they will fill out a report card for the main character. Some information will be factual and some will need to be inferred from students' reading.

#### 3-9. WHERE THERE'S A WILL

A person's possessions often tell a lot about the individual. In this activity students will write a will for the subject. They should pick out items they know or think are important to that person. These items will be bequeathed to those individuals who played prominent roles in the deceased's life.

#### 3-10. SOUL SEARCHER

There are parts of a biography for which the author must make a judgment about what happened in the character's life. An author's judgment may then be used to "fill in the gaps" in conversations or certain acts about which no one has exact knowledge. Assign a section of the book to be done in conjunction with the accompanying worksheet. The student will make two columns, one labeled "author's judgment" and the other "known facts." He/she will take the events of the chapter and put them in the correct column.

#### 3-11. WITH OR WITHOUT YOU

Can a single human being's impact on the world be calculated? Together, you and your class will make this decision about the main subject. It is recommended that you first discuss with the class the achievements of this person. It will then be each student's responsibility to analyze how history may have been altered had this person not lived. This project would probably work better by discussing biographies of political figures and world leaders.

#### 3-12. TIME MACHINE

When and where a person lives determines what he/she can do with his/her life. After moving the subject to a totally new setting, each student will decide what role the person would now play in society. For example, if Susan B. Anthony lived today, what causes and issues would motivate her, and how would she act upon her ideals?

#### 3-13. NAME GAME

As an exercise in character analysis, each student will write an acrostic poem using descriptive words. Students will first select colorful adjectives that relate to the character. From this list they will choose the best adjective for each letter. Finally, the name will be written vertically using a word for each letter.

JustAdmirableOratoricalDiligentHonestArrogantNationalisticMeticulousStatesmanlike

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Name -		
Period	Date	
		CAREER C

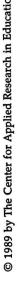
"Well, if I couldn't be a \_\_

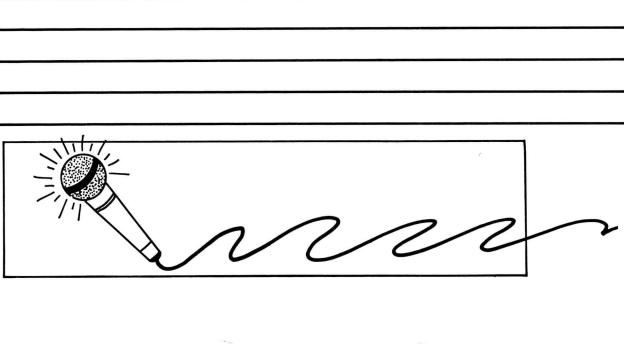
## CAREER COUNSELING

Directions: You are the subject of the book being read and are facing yet another interviewer who asks, "If you had to choose another career, what would it be?" Keeping this person's education, skills and personality in mind, how would that person have answered?

\_\_\_\_\_, I would really

		(real occupation)	
like to be a		because	
	(new occupation)		
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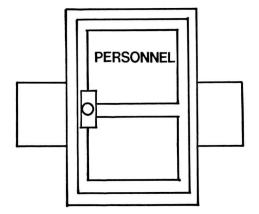
3-	-2

Name		
Period	Date	

# FILL ME IN!

*Directions*: A job application can tell many important things about a person. Complete the form below, based on your knowledge of a character in the book.

1	Name:
1.	Name:
2.	Date/place of birth:
3.	Are you a citizen of the United States? Yes No
4.	If no, what citizenship do you hold?
5.	Schools Attended:
6.	Degrees Held:
7.	Previous Work Experience:
8.	Briefly list personality characteristics that qualify you for this job.
a	Names of two references



Signature .

Name		
Period	Date	

# GIVE ME LIBERTY OR . . .

Directions: How many people do you know who would be willing to die for their convictions? Choose an issue that you think the subject of the book would feel strongly about and write a letter to the editor of a newspaper as that person. Keep in mind the time period and thinking of the times when expressing the subject's feelings.



To Whom It May Concern:

· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	and would like to respond. I feel tha
	*
I believe many people feel the way I do an	d hope you will print this letter
2 Deficie many people feet the way I do an	Sincerely,

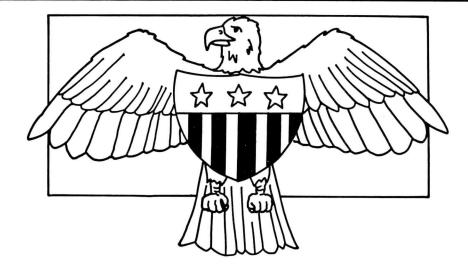
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Name	
Period	Date

## IF ELECTED . . .

Directions: Everyone claims to know how to run the country better than the person currently in office. Given the opportunity, would the subject of your reading make a good president? Make a list of qualities a competent leader must have and decide whether that person measures up to those standards. Put your answer in composition form.

Qualities:		
	(subject)	would / would not (circle one) make a good president because
		·
-		



~	
. 1 -	-7
•	

Name	
Period	Date

# IN THE WORDS OF SOCRATES

Directions: Whether we realize it or not, everyone has a concept they live by. Having read about a person's life, what would be his/her motto or philosophy? Think of an original expression (or use a famous one) that represents what the person stood for. Explain your choice.

choice.	
Subject's Name:	
Motto:	
I believe the expression represents the subject's life because	
<del></del>	
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An example of this from the story is	
And example of this front the story is	
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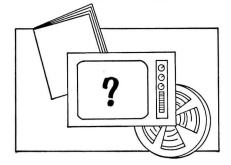
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Name	
Period	Date

## **LEISURE TIME**

Directions: Media (television, film, magazines, etc.) surround us. Based on your reading, what TV programs and magazines would your subject have watched/subscribed to? Think of that person's interests and activities to help make your choices. Check the library for specific titles of magazines and their contents.

TV / MAGAZINES	OVERALL CONTENT	WHY CHOSEN



Name -Period \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_

# **SCALING THE HEIGHTS**

Directions: Ignoring the accomplishments of the subject of your reading, judge this person as a human being. Rate personality traits on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being the lowest and 5 being the highest. Based on this information, write a brief character sketch.

PERSONALITY TRAIT	RATING
1. Hard working 2. Honest 3. Assertive 4. Persevering 5. Happy 6. Confident 7. Caring 8. Fair-minded 9. Diplomatic 10. Mature	

SCORE: 1–10 (subhuman)

11-20 (try harder)

21-30 (run-of-the-mill)

31-40 (most likely to succeed)

41–50 (superhuman)

TOTAL: \_

**Character Sketch** 

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SCHOOL SCHOOL	

F = below 65

Name	
Period	Date

A = 90 - 100

## TRADING PLACES

Directions: It's your turn to hand out the grades. Based on what you know about the subject of the story, fill out the report card below.

B = 80 - 90

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_ Grade Level \_\_\_\_

SUBJECT	GRADE
1. English	
2. Mathematics	
3. Science	
4. Geography	
5. (Elective of your choice)	

C = 70 - 80

D = 65 - 70

CATEGORY	GRADE
a. Shows respect for teachers	
b. Shows respect for other students	
c. Shows respect for self	
d. Exhibits appropriate classroom behavior	
e. Academic achievement reflects ability	
f. Displays leadership qualities	
g. Follows directions	
h. Accepts criticism	
i. Pleasant and outgoing	

+ = good	<b>▼</b> = okay	- = needs improvement	
Total Subject Grade Ave	rage	Overall Behavior Average	

On the back of this sheet, write your general evaluation of this student.

Name		
Period	Date	

# WHERE THERE'S A WILL

Directions: You are a lawyer and the subject of the book has come to you to draw up a will. Remember that all important possessions should be accounted for and given to specific people who figured prominently in this person's life.

	(date)
(subject	, being of sound mind and body, do hereby
_	ossessions. To I give
-	because
	To
leave my	because
	In addition, I want
o have	because
Finally, I leave the bulk of	because  Try estate to my dear
Finally, I leave the bulk of	

Name	
Period	Date

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## **SOUL SEARCHER**

Directions: Because not all the details of a person's life can be known, often an author must fill in the gaps based on the knowledge he/she does have. This may involve dialogue or events for which there were no witnesses. Based on a particular section of the book, fill in the columns below. Was more of the story based on fact or the author's imagination?

KNOWN FACTS	AUTHOR'S JUDGMENT

On the back of this sheet, explain why three of the events in the second column cannot be verified.

Name	
Period	

# WITH OR WITHOUT YOU

Directions: Is it possible to know what effect one person can have on the world? Think about the achievements of the person you have read about, and then try to decide how history would have been changed had that person never lived,

Cubicate
Subject:
Notable Achievements:
If the person mentioned above had never lived, the following things would have changed:

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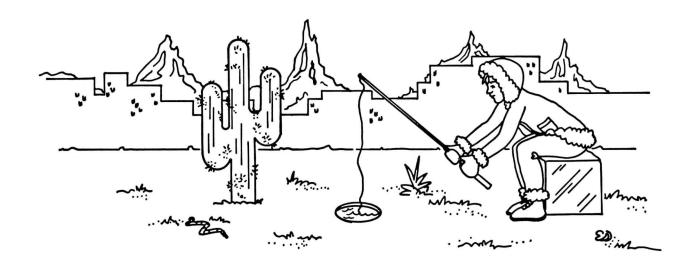
Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_

# TIME MACHINE

Directions: When and where a person lives determines their actions. Move the subject of your reading to a totally new setting and decide what role he/she would now play.

*Example:* If Susan B. Anthony lived today, what causes and issues would motivate her, and how would she act upon her ideals?

Subject:		
Original Setting:	New Setting:	
I thinkin the new setting because		



Name						-13
		e			APANT	-10
		NAME (	GAME	I I I	HOCENT HOCENT PROSSIBLE GIVE UP!	
Directions:		ves that relate to the ach letter of that perso				are
Examples:	Just Oratorical Honest Nationalistic	Admirable Diligent Arrogant Meticulous Statesmanl				
Use the arbest one.	rea below as works Write the finished	space. Try to think of acrostic on the back of	two or more this sheet.	words for each le	etter; then use	the
	5-7					
				-		
	-					

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 $(1) \cdot (1) \cdot (1)$ 

# — Up Front —

## SHRUNKEN HEADS

People often wonder why others act the way they do. In this project the class will role play the following situation: The subject of the book has gone to a psychiatrist to discuss his/her problems. You will need volunteers to play the following parts: psychiatrist, main subject, and assorted individuals from the person's past. As the subject mentions various events, they will be acted out by various members of the class.

## AND SO ON

This project is a good review after a biography has been completed by the whole class. Choose one student, who will begin by giving one detail about the person. A second student will have to repeat the first detail and add a new fact. This will continue around the room. To add more excitement and encouragement, you may want to give an incentive if the whole class is able to successfully finish the task.

## THE GRASS IS ALWAYS GREENER

Many students like to imagine they are other people. In this project the class must decide whether or not they would like to have been the subject of the book. Once they are equally divided, pro and con, they will debate the issue using facts and events from the person's life.

#### WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS?

Pictures often tell a story better than words. Each student will select a picture from the newspaper that relates to an event in the subject's life. He/she will explain the clipping to the class. Collect all the pictures and make a bulletin board display.

# — To Be Continued —

#### DO YOU RECOGNIZE THIS VOICE?

This project is similar to the television show "This is Your Life." One student will act as the master of ceremonies, another the subject, and the rest of the class people from the person's life. For this activity to be successful, all participants must be familiar with all details of the book.

\_

## **MYSTERY GUEST**

If students are each reading a biography of a different person, this assignment is perfect for them. Each student will present an oral report to the class without divulging the subject's name. The other class members will be responsible for guessing who the report is about. Turn the exercise into a game by having each student write down his/her choice and keeping a tally as to how often he/she is correct.

#### THE LIFE AND TIMES OF . . .

After reading a biography, students can then practice writing one. Each student will choose a relative or friend to interview. He/she should then write up questions that are designed to find out about the person's life. When the interview is completed, the information should be compiled into composition form. It is recommended that you restrict the subject to an adult to ensure there is sufficient information to write about.

# — Recommended Book List ——

## For Grades 7 and 8

Brian's Song, by William Blinn
The Diary of a Young Girl, by Anne Frank
The Miracle Worker, by William Gibson
The Spirit of St. Louis, by Charles A. Lindbergh

#### For Grades 9 and 10

Death Be Not Proud, by John Gunther
George Washington—The Indispensable Man, by James Thomas Flexner
Profiles in Courage, by John F. Kennedy

## For Grades 11 and 12

Eleanor and Franklin, by Joseph P. Lash The Elephant Man, by Christine Sparks Gandhi (A Memoir), by William L. Shirer

# — Video List —

TITLE	SUBJECT	PRODUCED	TIME
All the King's Men	Huey Long	1949	109:00
*Amazing Howard Hughes	Howard Hughes	1977	215:00
Birth of the Beatles	Beatles	1979	100:00
Brian's Song	Brian Piccolo	1970	73:00
Brother Sun, Sister Moon	St. Francis of Assisi	1973	121:00
Can You Hear the Laughter?	Freddie Prinze	1978	100:00
Chariots of Fire	H. Abrahams/E. Liddell	1981	123:00
Coal Miner's Daughter	Loretta Lynn	1980	125:00
Collins, Marva (Story)	Marva Collins	1981	100:00
*Columbus, Christopher	Christopher Columbus	1985	288:00
Curie, Madame	Marie Curie	1943	124:00
Damien —Leper Priest	Father Damien	1980	100:00
Death Be Not Proud	Johnny Gunther	1975	100:00
Diary of Anne Frank	Anne Frank	1959	180:00
Earhart, Amelia	Amelia Earhart	1976	100:00
Edison, the Man	Thomas Edison	1940	107:00
*Eleanor and Franklin	Eleanor and Franklin Roosevelt	1976	208:00
Elephant Man	John Merrick	1980	125:00
Elvis	Elvis Presley	1979	150:00
Eric	Eric Lund	1975	100:00
Fear Strikes Out	Jim Piersall	1957	100:00
<sup>+</sup> Frances	Frances Farmer	1982	139:00
Freud	Sigmund Freud	1962	120:00
Gandhi	Mahatma Gandhi	1982	188:00
Holly, Buddy (Story)	<b>Buddy Holly</b>	1978	114:00
I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings	Maya Angelou	1979	100:00
Joan of Ark	Joan of Ark	1948	100:00

<sup>\*</sup>TV mini-series + "R" rated film
Authors were excluded due to the numerous books available for each subject.

TITLE	SUBJECT	PRODUCED	TIME
Julia	Lillian Hellman	1977	118:00
King: A Filmed Record	Martin Luther King	1970	153:00
Miracle Worker	Helen Keller	1962	107:00
Mommie Dearest	Joan Crawford	1981	129:00
My Brilliant Career	Miles Franklin	1979	100:00
Other Side of the Mountain	Jill Kilmont	1975	101:00
Patton	George Patton	1970	170:00
Playing for Time	Fania Fenelon	1980	150:00
PT 109	John Kennedy	1963	140:00
Shining Season	John Baker	1979	100:00
Something for Joey	John Cappelletti	1977	100:00
Sound of Music	Maria VonTrapp	1965	174:00
Spirit of St. Louis	Charles Lindbergh	195 <b>7</b>	138:00
Sybil	Sybil	1976	208:00
*Washington, George	George Washington	1984	384:00
Whatta Gal	Babe Didrikson	1975	100:00
Woman Called Moses	Harriet Tubman	1978	200:00
Young Mr. Lincoln	Abraham Lincoln	1939	100:00

<sup>\*</sup>TV mini-series +"R" rated film
Authors were excluded due to the numerous books available for each subject.



# —— Chapter 4 ——

# **CLASSICS** =

Be Seated • 62

Tell Me Why

Dare Me!

Go Climb a Tree

You Can Quote Me

Details, Details

"E" for Effort

Coming to a Theater Near You

If the Fates Allow

Sign of the Times

Turnabout Is Fair Play

Cover Me

The Right Stuff

Up Front • 76

And They Said It Wouldn't Last

Going the Distance

Do You See What I See?

Babes in Bookland

To Be Continued • 76

**Brief Encounter** 

It's Your Turn

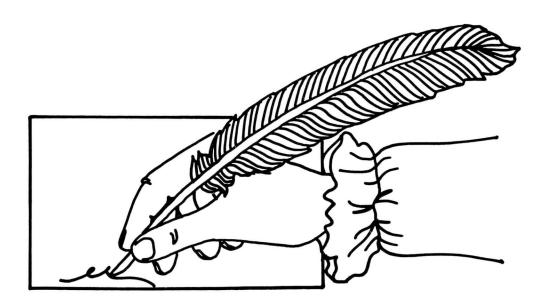
Imitation is the Sincerest Form of

**Flattery** 

Theme Work

Recommended Book List • 77

Video List • 78



# — Be Seated —

#### 4-1. TELL ME WHY

Allow the students to imagine interviewing the author. Each student will devise ten questions that he/she would ask the author if given the chance. If appropriate, have the class role play the parts of interviewer and author.

#### **4-2. DARE ME!**

We all face challenges everyday in our life, but rarely on the same scale as a hero in a classic novel. The student must first decide what the main character's biggest challenge was, and then describe how he/she handled it. Finally, the student will imagine and explain how he/she would behave given the same circumstances.

## 4-3. GO CLIMB A TREE

Many classics deal with families or the ancestry of families. To better understand these often-intricate relationships, a family tree or lineage chart will be drawn. This can be done as an individual or class activity.

## 4-4. YOU CAN QUOTE ME

Many classics have lines that have become universally known. In this activity, allow the student to choose one line from the novel that is the most memorable. He/she will first explain why it is noteworthy to him/her and also what it means to the character.

## 4-5. DETAILS, DETAILS

Even though a novel has attained classic status, this does not mean the author was infallible. There is always room for improvement, and that is the job that is being given to your class. Each student will imagine himself/herself to be the publisher and will draft a letter of criticism to the author pointing out elements that could be improved.

#### 4-6. "E" FOR EFFORT

In this project the student will get a chance to grade the book on the following elements: plot, characterization, setting, theme, and style. Each element will receive a grade and an explanation.

## 4-7. COMING TO A THEATER NEAR YOU

If the book read has been made into a movie this project is perfect for the class. After reading the classic and seeing the movie, have the students write an essay detailing the differences in the two versions.

## 4-8. IF THE FATES ALLOW

Do we control our own lives or is there a greater force planning our future? Pose this question to your class and encourage a discussion. Students will then defend one of the following statements in regard to the novel: (a) The ending was the result of fate, or (b) The hero created his/her own destiny.

## 4-9. SIGN OF THE TIMES

Classic stories are often thought of as applying only to a previous time period, but their universal story lines would work just as well today. For example, Romeo and Juliet was made into West Side Story. First, each student will list the characters' original names. Next, modern names will be given that would be appropriate in today's society. Finally, he/she will make a determination as to how the plot would be altered by being updated.

## 4-10. TURNABOUT IS FAIR PLAY

If the students had the chance, they would probably like to change things about the novel they are reading. Give students the opportunity to alter one character, one event, and one setting. They will then explain their reasoning and detail what ramifications would ensue.

## 4-11. COVER ME

Book covers often seem very plain and boring to students. In this project each student will create an original cover for the book they are reading. It must include title, author, and an appropriate visual concept. Stress to the class that the artwork must relate directly to a character or idea expressed in the story.

#### 4-12. THE RIGHT STUFF

In addition to books, many other things in life are considered to be classics, such as Coca-Cola, Cadillacs, and the Empire State Building. After deciding what constitutes a "classic," each student will select five items or institutions that fall into this category and explain why.

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			•	

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

Interviewee: \_\_

# **TELL ME WHY**

Directions: You have been granted the rare opportunity to conduct an exclusive interview with the author of the novel you are reading. Based on your knowledge of the person and his/her work, think of ten questions you will ask. Remember, this person's time is valuable and limited, so ask about thought-provoking, significant things.

If your teacher decides this will be just a written assignment, fill in the answers yourself as you imagine the author would respond. If it is oral, a classmate will role play the interview with you and put in his/her answers later.
Question 1:
Answer:
Question 2:
Answer:
Question 3:
Answer:
Question 4:
Answer:
Question 5:
Answer:
Question 6:
Answer:
Question 7:
Answer:
Question 8:
Answer:
Question 9:
Answer:
Question 10:
Answer:

Name			
	¥.		
Period		Date	

# DARE ME!

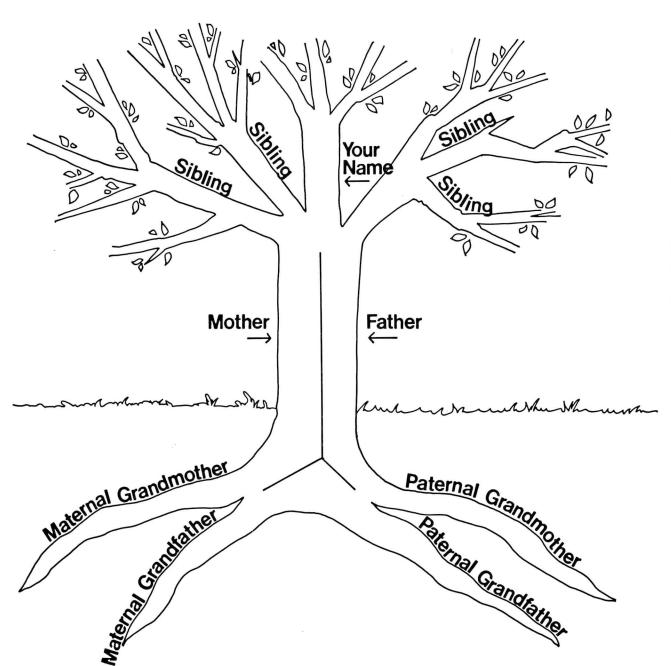
Directions: We face challenges everyday in our lives, but usually not on the same scale as a character in a novel. Decide what the main character's biggest challenge was and describe how he/she handled it. Put yourself in the same situation and explain how you would have dealt with it.

would have dealt with it.	
Character:	
The biggest challenge the character faced was	
2. He/she handled it by	
7	-
3. If I were in the same situation, I would have	
because	

Name		-
Period	Date	_

# GO CLIMB A TREE

Directions: Classic novels often involve complicated family relationships. To better understand the family you are reading about, you will take a deeper look at your own. Fill in the diagram below as completely as possible. Talk to older relatives for names and dates.



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Name		-	4-4
Period _	Date	-	
	YOU CAN	N QUO	OTE ME
Directions	First, choose a quote from the boo	k and exp	that have become universally well known lain what the expression means in general at same phrase has to the characters.
Example:	"To be or not to be." —Hamlet		
	If the average person said this, the utters these words, he is debating v		e discussing a career choice. When Hamler r not to commit suicide.
Quote: _			
Spoken by	y:		
_		6.	
Document	(chapter)	(page	) (paragraph)
General n	neaning:		
•			
0 10 1			
Specific II	iterary meaning:		

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

# **DETAILS, DETAILS**

Directions: Imagine it is one year prior to the copyright date of the book you are reading. The author has come to you with the manuscript and you have wisely decided to publish it. Below is a letter you will send to the writer listing suggested revisions in the text. The changes can involve plot, character, or style, but be specific.



	(date)
Dear;	
I have just finished reading	(book title), and love
it, but I think it would be much better with	a few of the changes I've listed below:
1	
2	·
3	
4	
5. Please look over the above comments	and let me know what you think. If you hav
5	and let me know what you think. If you hav
Please look over the above comments any problems with the proposed alteration	and let me know what you think. If you hav
any problems with the proposed alteration	and let me know what you think. If you hav
5. Please look over the above comments	and let me know what you think. If you hav s, respond as soon as possible. Looking

A = EXCELLENT

B = VERY GOOD

C = AVERAGE

D = POOR

F = FAILURE

I = INCOMPLETE

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Name		
Period	Date	

# **COMING TO A THEATER NEAR YOU**

*Directions*: After reading the book and then seeing the movie version, you should have noticed that some changes were made. Think about the differences, and then complete the sections below.

CATEGORY	ВООК	FILM
Characters' Physical Appearances		,
Relationships		
Plot Additions		
Plot Deletions		
Characters' Names		
I enjoyed the book	/ film (circle one) better because	
		- AR (VA)

Name 4-8 Period Date
Period Date
IF THE FATES ALLOW
Directions: Do we control our own lives, or is there a greater force planning our future? Think about this in regard to yourself and the main character, and then defend one of the following statements: (a) The ending of the story was the result of fate, or (b) The hero created his/her own destiny.
I believe that because (chosen statement)
An example of this would be when

7 6 5 4	4-9	
		© 1989 by The Center for Applied Research in Education, Inc.

Name	
Period	Date

# SIGN OF THE TIMI

Directions: Classic novels are usually ident

original settings, but the ur being told work well today, to Romeo and Juliet was the origi

West Side Story. First, list the cl nal names; then change the modern situation. Finally, deci-

would change if you moved

current time.

-		4–9
	10 1 2	
ES	9 0 3 8 7 6 5	w.
tified with their niversal stories to. For example, inal concept for haracters' origi- names to fit a de what actions the plot to the		

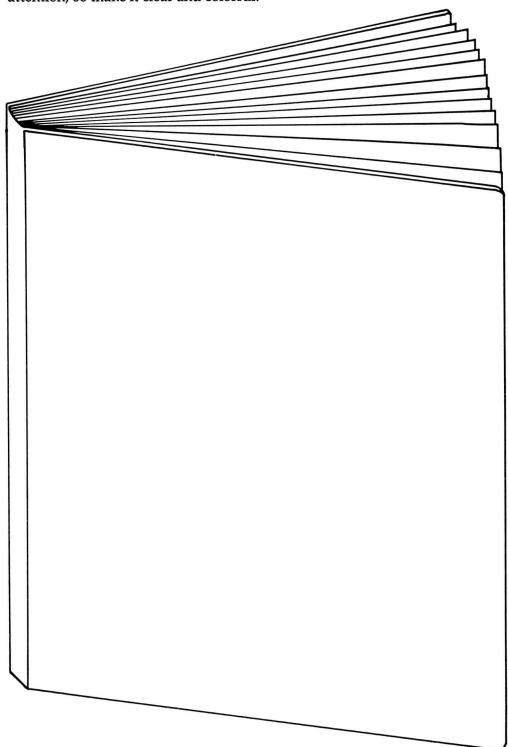
Book title:	
Author:	
ORIGINAL CHARACTER NAMES	NEW NAMES
In the modern setting, the following changes wo	uld occur:

Name 4-1
Period Date
$\geq$ $\parallel$
TURNABOUT IS FAIR PLAY
TURNABOUT IS FAIR PLAT
Directions: You have the power to change one
character, one event, and one setting in the novel you are reading. That's a big
responsibility! What decisions will you
make and what will be the results?
1. Character change:
Effect:
2. Event change:
Effect:
Effect.
3. Setting change:
Effect:

Name		
Pariod	Date	

# **COVER ME**

Directions: You are the head of the art department of a publishing company and have been assigned to create a new cover for the book you are reading. Include the title, author, and a visual concept that relates to some part of the novel. Remember, you want to get everyone's attention, so make it clear and colorful.



Period	Date		
Directions:	THE RIGHT STUFF In addition to books, many things are	\	
	thought of as "classics." A classic is something that has quality, style, and is longlasting. Think of five items or institutions that fall into this category and explain why.	1	
Examples:	Coca-Cola, Cadillacs, the Empire State Building		
1	is a classic because		
-			
2	is a classic because		
3	is a classic because		
4	is a classic because		
5	is a classic because		

0.000.000.000.000.000.000.000.000.000.000.000

# — Up Front —

## AND THEY SAID IT WOULDN'T LAST

In order for a book to be considered a classic it must withstand the test of time. List on the board the following literary elements: plot, character, theme, dialogue, and motivation. Discuss each in relationship to the book. Based on information gathered, have the class choose the element they feel has given the novel its "classic" status.

## **GOING THE DISTANCE**

After the students have become familiar with works that are considered classics, hold a discussion on which modern fiction will be considered as classic in 100 years. Have students explain their choices.

#### DO YOU SEE WHAT I SEE?

Students can experiment with point of view in this activity to better understand how first-person narration affects a novel. Choose a scene that would lend itself to this exercise. Have one student take the part of narrator and describe the action as he/she sees it unfold. Select other students who, as the characters involved, will in turn give their points of view on the same series of events. As a result, the class should realize how different a person's perceptions can be, depending on his/her relationship to the action.

#### **BABES IN BOOKLAND**

From this activity the student should obtain a better understanding of language. Choose a passage from the book and have one student read it aloud. The class as a group will then rewrite the scene through the eyes of a young child. Have one student put the responses on the board. It is recommended to have dictionaries available.

# — To Be Continued ——

#### **BRIEF ENCOUNTER**

In this activity students should choose two characters, each from a different book, and have them meet. They will then write a short story about what happens when these two characters interact. Students should keep in mind the personalities of the characters and create only new action.

#### IT'S YOUR TURN

Designing a board game about the book may heighten some students' interest in the book. In groups, students will design a board game including the board, the playing pieces, and the rules. Groups can then exchange games and play them in class.

## IMITATION IS THE SINCEREST FORM OF FLATTERY

In order to better understand the author's style, students should try this project. You will first describe the type of language and the sentence length the author uses in the novel. The student will then follow this format in writing a composition of his/her choice.

#### THEME WORK

Students often have difficulty understanding the concept of theme in a novel. Once the theme of the book has been established, each student will create a montage in order to help himself/herself better understand the ideas being presented.

# ----- Recommended Book List ----

## For Grades 7 and 8

) () ()

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, by Mark Twain A Christmas Carol, by Charles Dickens Little Women, by Louisa May Alcott

#### For Grades 9 and 10

David Copperfield, by Charles Dickens Romeo and Juliet, by William Shakespeare A Tale of Two Cities, by Charles Dickens West Side Story, by Irving Shulman

#### For Grades 11 and 12

Hamlet, by William Shakespeare
The Hunchback of Notre Dame, by Victor Hugo
The Scarlet Letter, by Nathaniel Hawthorne

# --- Video List ----

TITLE	AUTHOR	PRODUCED	TIME
Adventures of Huckleberry Finn	M. Twain	1960	107:00
Adventures of Tom Sawyer	M. Twain	1938	93:00
Anna Karenina	L. Tolstoy	1935	95:00
Camille	A. Dumas	1936	108:00
Christmas Carol	C. Dickens	1951	86:00
Crime and Punishment	F. Dostoyevsky	1935	88:00
David Copperfield	C. Dickens	1935	130:00
Gone With the Wind	M. Mitchell	1939	222:00
Grapes of Wrath	J. Steinbeck	1940	129:00
Great Expectations	C. Dickens	1946	118:00
Great Gatsby	F. S. Fitzgerald	1947	144:00
Hamlet	W. Shakespeare	1948	153:00
House of the Seven Gables	N. Hawthorne	1940	89:00
Hunchback of Notre Dame	V. Hugo	1982	150:00
Ivanhoe	Sir. W. Scott	1982	150:00
Jane Eyre	C. Brontë	1944	96:00
Julius Caesa <b>r</b>	W. Shakespeare	1953	120:00
*Life and Adventures of Nicholas Nickleby	C. Dickens	1947	106:00
Little Women	L. M. Alcott	1933	115:00
Lord of the Flies	W. Golding	1963	90:00
Macbeth	W. Shakespeare	1971	140:00
Madame Bovary	G. Flaubert	1949	115:00
Midsummer Night's Dream	W. Shakespeare	1935	117:00
Moby Dick	H. Melville	1956	116:00
Moll Flanders (Amorous Adventures of Moll Flanders)	D. DeFoe	1965	126:00
Of Mice and Men	J. Steinbeck	1937	107:00

<sup>\*</sup>Royal Shakespeare Compzny's 81/2-hour version also available

TITLE	AUTHOR	PRODUCED	TIME
Oliver Twist	C. Dickens	1948	105:00
Othello	W. Shakespeare	1965	166:00
Pride and Prejudice	J. Austen	1940	116:00
Richard III	W. Shakespeare	1956	158:00
<sup>†</sup> Romeo and Juliet	W. Shakespeare	1968	138:00
Scarlet Letter	N. Hawthorne	1926	80:00
Tale of Two Cities	C. Dickens	1935	121:00
Taming of the Shrew	W. Shakespeare	1967	126:00
<sup>+</sup> Tess of the D'Urbervilles (Tess)	T. Hardy	1979	180:00
Three Musketeers	A. Dumas	1948	125:00
Treasure Island	R. L. Stevenson	1950	96:00
Ulysses	J. Joyce	1967	140:00
War and Peace	L. Tolstoy	1956	208:00
West Side Story	I. Shulman	1961	155:00
Wuthering Heights	E. Brontë	1939	104:00

<sup>\*</sup>Contains nudity

The British Broadcasting Company has produced all of Shakespeare's plays for television. Check your local public station for more information.

# —— Chapter 5 ——

# **CONTEMPORARY FICTION**

Be Seated • 82

In Case of Fire

It's All in the Cards

Matchmaker

Mr. or Miss Right

Most Likely To. , ,

**Now Starring** 

The Doctor Is In

You've Got Your Troubles,

I've Got Mine

Back to the Future

Be Advised

Tears of a Clown

Anytime, Anyplace

**Picture This** 

Tell Me Another One

Everything Olde is New Again

Up Front • 100

**Get Tough** 

Losing You

Now That You're Gone

Teachers' Lounge

To Be Continued • 100

**Dear Diary** 

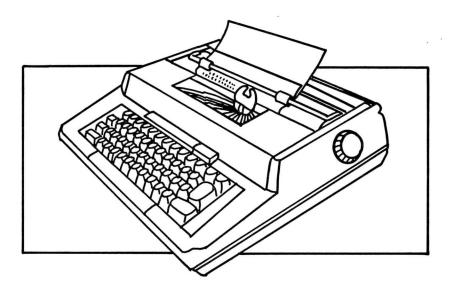
Dedicated to the One I Love

Name That Tune

Help, I Need Somebody

Recommended Book List • 106

Video List • 106



# —— Be Seated ——

#### 5-1. IN CASE OF FIRE

Examining a person's priorities is a general way to determine their true character. Students will illustrate their knowledge of the character's personality by deciding what he/she would save in the event of a natural disaster. They will then discuss how their choices would compare to those of the character.

## 5-2. IT'S ALL IN THE CARDS

A conclusion is not necessarily the end. Often the reader is left to decide where the story would have gone had the author continued. In this activity students will have the opportunity to project five years into the future. They are asked to tell where the main character is, what his/her personal relationships are, what he/she is now doing, and how his/her life has been affected by the events in the work.

## 5-3. MATCHMAKER

In today's computer age, dating services have become accepted as a logical means of finding a truly compatible mate. Using the actual experience of the main character, have the student fill out the questionnaire as that person might have. Any information requested that is not actually given in the story can be created by the student, but it should be a reasonable assumption based on what he/she knows about the character's actions and attitudes. Students should be prepared to explain their answers by citing examples from the work.

#### 5-4. MR. OR MISS RIGHT

We all have the fantasy of finding the perfect mate. Students will first decide what qualities they look for in another person and then explain their choices. Based on their knowledge of the characters in the story, they will pick the one they feel comes closest to their ideal.

#### 5-5. MOST LIKELY TO. . .

Students often feel far removed from the characters they read about. In this exercise they will imagine the character to be a member of the student body of their school. They are asked to create a yearbook entry which includes a drawing of the character (as they envision him/her), a list of activities, what they would have been voted, and an appropriate quote.

CONTEMPORARY FICTION

83

## 5-6. NOW STARRING

Society creates predetermined roles, which we all must conform to. The student will make two lists, one for the roles the character plays, the other for the roles the student plays. Students will then choose roles they share in common with the character and those that are favorites of each.

#### 5-7. THE DOCTOR IS IN

Putting themselves in the place of the main character, the students will fill out a personality test. This exercise will reinforce the concept of motivation and allow students to apply fictional ideas and actions to their personal experiences and feelings.

## 5-8. YOU'VE GOT YOUR TROUBLES, I'VE GOT MINE

For this assignment, the main character must be imagined to be a student who has been sent to the school guidance counselor. What would come of such a session? Some of the information requested can be taken from the novel; the rest must be logically deduced by the students.

#### 5-9. BACK TO THE FUTURE

The time period an author chooses impacts the events of a story. Students will pick a character and an action and explain why such an action could not have taken place a century before the opening of the novel. It is necessary for the students to be aware of the norms and morality of past times in order to successfully complete this assignment.

## 5-10. BE ADVISED

\_

Students sometimes feel they have the answer to a character's problems. In this exercise they first must write a letter describing a problem encountered in the novel. Acting as an impartial observer, they will answer the letter giving a logical solution to the problem. You might have students read a few newspaper advice columns to familiarize themselves with the form.

#### 5-11. TEARS OF A CLOWN

Humor is in the eye of the beholder. Some people fall down laughing at ethnic jokes while others find them distasteful and degrading. Choose a situation, perhaps an incident at school, that the students are familiar with and explain how because

84 CONTEMPORARY FICTION

they are not directly involved, the experience is funny but if they were the victim they would have a very different reaction. From there the students can choose excerpts from the book which illustrate the same idea.

## 5-12. ANYTIME, ANYPLACE

The setting of a novel often has a dramatic effect on the characters' actions. For example, two men who duel over a lady's honor in Victorian England probably would not feel compelled to settle their differences in this way under other circumstances. After discussing the significance of the actual setting, have the students choose another place and time for the action of the novel and explain what the results would be.

## 5-13. PICTURE THIS

Modern novels that do not feature illustrations leave the visualization of the setting up to the reader's imagination. The students are asked to either draw or locate a picture that they feel best exemplifies the setting. They are to then find descriptive examples from the novel.

#### 5-14. TELL ME ANOTHER ONE

Often, students find book titles simplistic, or perhaps confusing. In this assignment, students are given the opportunity to create a new title, which should reflect plot, characters, or theme.

## 5-15. EVERYTHING OLDE IS NEW AGAIN

Students often are frustrated at reading Shakespeare, Dickens, and the like, because they have little patience with what they see as archaic language. This exercise may shown them how to figure out the meanings of unfamiliar vocabulary. In the first part of the worksheet, students are presented with dated expressions and asked to give modern equivalent meanings. The answers are as follows:

Old	New
crazy water	liquor
pushing up daisies	dead
sawbones	surgeon
in a family way	pregnant
green-eyed monster	jealousy

The second part asks students to take modern words or ideas and create old-fashioned terminology. Remind the students that language in the past was often direct and logical and that they should keep this in mind when doing the assignment.

Name		
Pariod	Date	

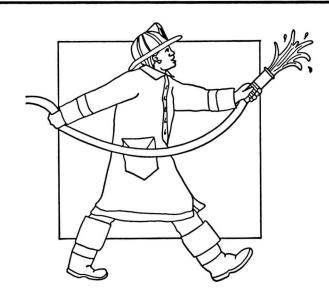
# IN CASE OF FIRE

Directions: A natural disaster (earthquake, flood, fire, storm, etc.) is about to destroy the home of your main character. He/she must evacuate in minutes. What items (not people or pets) would that person take?

Character's Name:

POSSESSION	EXPLANATION
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	

Would you have made the same choices? Why or why not?



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Name		_
Period	Date	_

# IT'S ALL IN THE CARDS

Directions:	You are the fortune teller,  The main character of your literary work,, has come to you seeking knowledge of the future. Predict what his/her life will be like five years after the conclusion of the story.
"I see many	y things in your future. First of all, you live
The people	e you are closest to are
You will sp	pend most of your time
Ü	ny changes have taken place in your life. Because of your experiences you now live by the



Na	nme 5-3
	riod Date
	MATCHMAKER
Di	rections: The main character of your story has gone to a dating service. Fill in the application below as he/she would.
Ap	pplicant's Name: / *
1.	Describe the physical appearance that you are most attracted to. (Be sure to include eye color, hair color, and approximations of height and weight.)
2.	What activities do you enjoy on a date?
3.	What hobbies and interests do you enjoy?
4.	Describe the type of personality that you would like your mate to have.
5.	Describe your own personality.
6.	How old would you like your mate to be? Why?
7.	Is there anything specific (such as money or religion) that your mate must have or be?

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Name	
Period	Date

# MR. OR MISS RIGHT

Directions: Think of married people whom you know. What qualities do they have that you like? Make a list of ten qualities you feel are necessary for your perfect mate,

	QUALITY	EXPLANATION
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		·
7.		
8.		
9.		
10.		

Choose a character in	for the story who you reer would be the best material you and explain why
"I would like to spend	d the rest of my life with

Name	
Period	Date

# MOST LIKELY TO . . .

Directions: One of the characters you are reading about has just become a member of your school's graduating class. What yearbook entry would appear for this person? Draw a picture of what you think this character looks like and then fill in the other elements.

Example:



ACTIVITIES:	Food Taster's Club			
	Chess Club			
	Croquet Club			
VOTED: M	ost Likely to Get in Trouble			
OUOTE:	Curiosity almost killed this cat."			

,			

<b>ACTIVITI</b>	ES: .			
VOTED: _				
_				
QUOTE: _				

(character)

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Name	
Period	Date

### **NOW STARRING**

Directions: Each person plays many roles in life. Make a list of five roles that you are currently playing and five roles you have observed your chosen character play. Some roles are student, daughter/son, brother/sister, friend, and so forth.

YOUR ROLES	CHARACTER'S ROLES
Circle the roles that you and the character have in you and for the character. Below, briefly explain ho	common. Place a star next to the favorite role for w you and the character behave in the same ways.
	——————————————————————————————————————

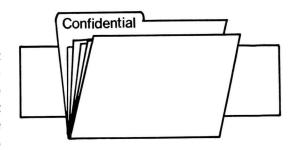
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Name		
Period	 Date	

### THE DOCTOR IS IN

Directions: Did you ever wish you were a psychiatrist and could find out what's going on in someone else's head? Motivation is why we do things and can be more important than what we actually do. Imagine yourself to be the main character in the story. Try to think as he/she would and fill in the questionnaire

below.



<u>PART I</u> — Place a check next to each statement below that applies to you (the character). Give an example in the column on the right.

1. I get very little support at home.	
2. I'm too shy.	
3. Many things/people make me nervous.	
4. I'm not really popular.	
5. I fail at many things.	
6. I worry about my family.	
7. I'm not physically attractive.	
8. I feel inferior to others.	
9. I'm unhappy a lot of the time.	
10. I don't know if I'm in love.	
11. I don't get along with my family.	
12. I think I'm prejudiced (race, religion).	
13. I don't think I'll succeed in life.	
14. I don't know what I really want.	
15. I'm stubborn.	
16. I argue a lot.	
17. I do things without thinking first.	
18. I'm sometimes immature.	
19. I exaggerate too much.	
20. I don't take important things seriously.	3

<u>PART II</u> — Select the statements that are true for you personally. Write an essay discussing at least three of your choices and why you feel that way. Be honest and specific in answering. Use the back of this sheet for your essay.

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Name	
Period	Date

# YOU'VE GOT YOUR TROUBLES, I'VE GOT MINE

Directions: You are the school guidance counselor for a character in the story. Fill in the form below.

### **GUIDANCE REPORT**

STUDENT: (character's name)	BIRTHDATE:
ADDRESS:	
IN CASE OF EMERGENCY CONTACT:	
EDUCATION:	
PROBLEM:	
RECOMMENDATIONS:	
	(counselor)

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Nama	5–9
	Date
	BACK TO THE FUTURE
Directions	: How we behave is determined by the time in which we live. This is especially true of literary characters.
Example:	If Romeo and Juliet had lived today, they might not have felt bound by their family's feuding and therefore would have been free to be together.
	Think of things that happened in your story that could not have occurred a century ago,
	(character) could never have (action)
100 years	ago because
	·

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Name		5–10
Period	Date	
	BE A	DVISED
Directions:	Choose a character in the story you he/she might send to a newspaper tion, respond with a letter giving a	are reading who has a problem. Write a brief letter advice column. With your knowledge of the situal reasonable solution to the problem.
Dear	<del>:</del>	
		Signed,
Dear	:	
		Good Luck,
		\

=	1.	1
<b>D</b> -	-1.	L

Name		
Period	Date	

### **TEARS OF A CLOWN**

Directions: The basis of all humor is pain. Think of any joke you have ever heard. You were able to laugh because it was someone else's painful experience. Consider all the problems the characters have in the story and choose ten that hurt them, but that you can laugh at.

	PROBLEM	WHY HUMOROUS
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
7.		
8.		
9.		
10.		

Describe an experience you had that someone else might find funny but that	you did not.
	(C)
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Name		
Pariod	Date	

# ANYTIME, ANYPLACE

Directions: Authors must make many decisions, including where and when the story takes place. Choose a different setting and think of how the story would change as a result.

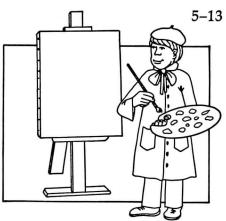
Original setting:			
Original setting.	TIME	PLACE	
New setting:	TIME	PLACE	
	TIME	PLACE	
<b>5.1</b> 1. 1 . 1	11		
Below, discuss what chang	ges would occur.		
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	<b>4</b>		
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Name	
Period	Date

# PICTURE THIS

Directions: Draw or find a picture of what you feel the setting of the story would look like.



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Find five examples from the book that describe the setting.

PAGE NO.	DESCRIPTION
1.	
2.	
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Name	
Period	Date

# TELL ME ANOTHER ONE

Directions:	You are t	the editor	of a	large publ	ishir	ng com	pany.	You	lov	e the bo	ok present	ed to	you,
	but you	hate the	title.	Complete	the	letter	below	to t	the	author,	explaining	why	you
	decided of	on a new	title.	_							-	-	

Date:(original copyright)
work, but I really feel it needs a snappier
choosing our company. I look forward to
Sincerely,
(your signature)
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Name	
Period	Date

### **EVERYTHING OLDE IS NEW AGAIN**

Directions: Even though language has changed, people haven't. Many of the same problems of yesterday still exist today. Look at the list of words below, and beside each put the modern expression you believe is the same.

OLD	NEW	WHY
1. crazy water		
2. pushing up daisies		
3. sawbones		
4. in a family way		
5. green-eyed monster		

Now take five modern words used in the story and create an "old" word.

Example: escalator (new) — quicksteps (old)

NEW	OLD	WHY
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		



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# — Up Front —

#### **GET TOUGH**

In this activity students are to role play a conflict from the book. Students should take on the parts of the story's characters and continue to role play until they have solved the problem. Students should be reminded to act the way the character does, using his/her speech, mannerisms, and the like.

#### **LOSING YOU**

This in-class assignment asks for improvisation on the part of the student. Many contemporary novels deal with young people's desperate acts, such as suicide, drugs, and drinking. In this exercise students are to try to talk someone out of such acts. Students should be given a time limit, such as five minutes, to succeed.

#### NOW THAT YOU'RE GONE

Every character has a purpose for being put in a novel. In this discussion starter, the teacher will lead a talk as to how the novel would be different if one of the characters had been killed off. The teacher may also choose to discuss the purposes of some of the minor characters (why the author put them in).

#### **TEACHERS' LOUNGE**

A group of five students will role play five teachers in the faculty room discussing the main character. The teacher may wish to initiate this role play by setting up a situation that the main character was involved in. This is a good insight into how we as teachers are viewed by our students.

### — To Be Continued —

#### **DEAR DIARY**

In this project, students will become one of the novel's characters and will keep a diary. The teacher should choose the time period that the diary is to cover. This time period should be based on the duration of the book. Teachers may ask for a diary covering several years or only a week, depending on the important events in the book. Students should be sure to include events from the book and also to express the character's feelings. CONTEMPORARY FICTION

#### DEDICATED TO THE ONE I LOVE

In this exercise, a theme song for a main character will be selected. When you feel the students are familiar enough with the personality traits of the main characters, they can execute this assignment. You may want to set some class time aside to discuss themes in popular music. You can discuss these themes in general, or you can choose just one lyric that illustrates a particular literary character already known to the students. For instance, at the end of *Romeo and Juliet*, while Romeo is banished from Mantua, he might have sung the song "Dedicated to the One I Love." The students can either write down the appropriate lyrics on the worksheet (see 5-16) and give a written explanation, or they can bring a copy of the song to class and do the assignment as an oral project.

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#### NAME THAT TUNE

We are subjected to a barrage of commercials every day, and while the name of the product is often forgotten, years later we still remember a catchy tune or phrase. Since this is a form students are already familiar with, it shouldn't be difficult for them to create a jingle for the novel they are reading. A brainstorming session to list characters, plot action, and themes should be the first step so students have information to call upon. The example given on the worksheet (see 5-17) is the song "That Was Then, This Is Now," which is, coincidentally, the title of S. E. Hinton's book. For their project, however, the students should create lyrics using ideas from whatever novel they are reading, and set these lyrics to the melody of any popular song. Encourage them to rhyme the words, thus adding poetry skills to the exercise.

#### **HELP, I NEED SOMEBODY**

Part of the lure of contemporary novels is that students can relate the characters' dilemmas to their own personal experiences. Even though the story students are reading may deal with only one specific issue, it would be instructive for them to become aware of several topical issues facing young people. Using the various media at their disposal, they are to obtain and write on worksheet 5-18 the names, addresses, and phone numbers of organizations that offer help in the following areas: alcohol/drug abuse, child abuse, rape, runaways, suicide, teen pregnancy, and venereal disease. This will stretch their research-gathering muscles. Students' interpersonal skills also will be developed if they must make contact with organization representatives for further information. A theme poster can also be created focusing on a particular issue.

Follow Up: If you think you can muster, time, energy, and student support then do we have a project for you. Our school decided to take the above-mentioned assignment further. First, students chose one issue, in our case it was alcohol/drug

102 CONTEMPORARY FICTION

abuse. After becoming familiar with the subject, each member of the class created posters that were hung throughout the building warning against the dangers of substance abuse. Next, slogans were designed, printed on buttons, and sold to the student body. The money raised went to a local drug rehabilitation center. Finally, a guest speaker addressed the school giving information and answering questions. The awareness campaign continued throughout the school year with assemblies and class visits by police and representatives of various organizations. Of course, the long-term effects cannot be calculated, but at least for awhile it was "cool" to be "straight." Everyone was better informed, and the students who chose to be involved felt a tremendous sense of accomplishment.

Name	5-16
DEDICATED TO THE ONE	I LOVE
Directions: Hearing a song can bring back a management of qualities that describe a character acted in tions and why he/she acted that was ular song, past or present, that coult the character's theme song, and the illustrate your choice.	e, first make a list ter in the story. particular situaty. Choose a populd be considered
Character:	Song Title:
LYRICS	EXPLANATION

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Period	Date

### NAME THAT TUNE

Directions: You run an advertising agency. The author of the novel you are reading wants to do a commercial. Choose a character or aspect of the story and write a jingle about it. A jingle is a short poem put to music. Make yours at least eight lines long and pick a popular tune to go with it. Replace the actual lyrics with your own words that refer to the book being read, and recite them to the rhythm of the music.

Example:

"THAT WAS THEN, THIS IS NOW"



Two boys who once shared everything, but now their world was quickly changing. Bryan and Mark were best of friends. Which path they choose will all depend.

Mark gets into trouble, Bryan sees it all. He knows his friend is heading for a fall.

That was then, this is now. Can they make it work out maybe somehow? Friends once again or end in a row? That was then, this is now.

(song title)				
				<u> </u>
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(coma titla)

Name	
Period	Date

### HELP, I NEED SOMEBODY

Directions: Topics such as suicide, drug/alcohol abuse, teen pregnancy, runaways, child abuse, rape, and venereal disease are being more openly discussed, and are now the subjects of books, plays, and television programs. If you, a family member, or a friend had one of these problems, would you know where to go for help? Your task is to find at least one organization a person wanting help could contact for each of the problems below. Magazines, newspapers, and television are good sources of information.

PROBLEM	ORGANIZATION	ADDRESS	PHONE NO.
Child Abuse	1		
Drug/Alcohol			
Rape			
Runaways			
Suicide			
Teen Pregnancy			
Venereal Disease			

On the back of this paper, design a poster that could be used to advertise one of the organizations listed above.



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### Recommended Book List

#### For Grades 7 and 8

The Pigman, by Paul Zindel
That Was Then, This Is Now, by S. E. Hinton
The Wave, by Morton Rhue

#### For Grades 9 and 10

Go Ask Alice, (anonymous)
The Promise, by Chaim Potok
Summer of My German Soldier, by Bette Greene
To Sir With Love, by E. R. Braithwaite

#### For Grades 11 and 12

East of Eden, by John Steinbeck
On Golden Pond, by Ernest Thompson
The World According to Garp, by John Irving

### --- Video List ----

TITLE	AUTHOR	PRODUCED	TIME	
Addie Pray (Paper Moon)	J. D. Brown	1973	103:00	
Advise and Consent	A. Drury	1962	139:00	
Anatomy of a Murder	R. Traver	1959	160:00	
Arrowsmith	S. Lewis	1931	108:00	
Bang the Drum Slowly	M. Harris	1973	98:00	
Being There	J. Kosinski	1979	130:00	
Bell Jar	S. Plath	1979	107:00	
Blackboard Jungle	E. Hunter	1955	101:00	
Black Like Me	J. H. Griffin	1964	107:00	
Bostonians	H. James	1984	120:00	
Brideshead Revisited	E. Waugh	1981	660:00	
Bridge of San Luis Rey	T. Wilder	1944	85:00	
Being There Bell Jar Blackboard Jungle Black Like Me Bostonians Brideshead Revisited	J. Kosinski S. Plath E. Hunter J. H. Griffin H. James E. Waugh	1979 1979 1955 1964 1984 1981	130 107 101 107 120 660	

<sup>\*</sup>TV mini-series

<sup>+ &</sup>quot;R" rated film

TITLE	AUTHOR	PRODUCED	TIME
<sup>+</sup> Catch 22	J. Heller	1970	122:00
Circle of Children	M. MacCracken	1977	100:00
Corn is Green	E. Williams	1945	114:00
Cross and the Switchblade	D. Wilkerson	1972	106:00
Dodsworth	S. Lewis	1936	101:00
Dollmaker	H. Arnow	1984	150:00
East of Eden	J. Steinbeck	1955	115:00
Elmer Gantry	S. Lewis	1960	146:00
Europeans	H. James	1979	90:00
*Evergreen	B. Plain	1985	336:00
Fountainhead	A. Rand	1949	114:00
<sup>+</sup> French Lieutenant's Woman	J. Fowles	1981	127:00
Gentleman's Agreement	L. Hobson	1947	118:00
Giant	E. Ferber	1956	197:00
Go Ask Alice	Anonymous	1972	73:00
<sup>+</sup> Goodbye Columbus	P. Roth	1969	105:00
Goodbye, Mr. Chips	J. Hilton	1939	114:00
Good Earth	P. Buck	1937	138:00
Heart is a Lonely Hunter	C. McCullers	1968	125:00
<sup>+</sup> Hotel New Hampshire	J. Irving	1984	110:00
How Green Was My Valley	R. Llewellyn	1941	118:00
I Never Promised You a	I. Cucanhaus	1077	06.00
Rose Garden	J. Greenberg	1977	96:00
Inherit the Wind	J. Lawrence/R. Lee	1960	127:00
Inside Moves	T. Walton	1980 1977	113:00
James at 15	A. Smith		100:00
Johnny Got His Gun Kramer vs. Kramer	D. Trumbo	1971	111:00
	A. Corman	1979	105:00
Love Story	E. Segal	1970	100:00
Mouse that Roared	L. Wilberley	1959	85:00
Natural	B. Malamud	1984	134:00
Of Human Bondage	S. Maugham	1964	105:00

<sup>\*</sup>TV mini-series

<sup>+ &</sup>quot;R" rated film

TITLE	AUTHOR	PRODUCED	TIME
Old Man and the Sea	E. Hemingway	1958	89:00
Oliver's Story	E. Segal	1978	92:00
On Golden Pond	E. Thompson	1981	109:00
Ordinary People	J. Guest	1980	123:00
Outsiders	S. E. Hinton	1983	91:00
Ox-Bow Incident	W. VanTilburg Clark	1943	<b>7</b> 5:00
Patch of Blue	E. Kata	1965	105:00
Prime of Miss Jean Brodie	M. Spark	1969	116:00
Promise	C. Potok	1979	98:00
Raisin in the Sun	L. Hansberry	1961	128:00
Razor's Edge	S. Maugham	1946	146:00
*Rich Man, Poor Man	I. Shaw	1976	384:00
<sup>+</sup> Rumble Fish	S. E. Hinton	1983	94:00
Sarah T: Portrait of a Teenage Alcoholic	R. Wagner	1975	100:00
Separate Peace	J. Knowles	1973	100:00
Six Weeks	F. Stewart	1982	107:00
*Slaughterhouse 5	K. Vonnegut	1972	104:00
Sound and the Fury	W. Faulkner	1959	117:00
*Space	J. Michener	1985	624:00
Staying Alive	L. Fleischer	1983	96:00
Summer of My German Soldier	B. Greene	1978	100:00
Sun Also Rises	E. Hemingway	1957	129:00
Terms of Endearment	L. McMurtry	1983	129:00
*Testimony of Two Men	T. Caldwell	1978	192:00
Tex	S. E. Hinton	1982	103:00
*Thorn Birds	C. McCullough	1983	480:00
Tobacco Road	E. Caldwell	1941	84:00
To Kill a Mockingbird	H. Lee	1962	129:00
To Sir With Love	E. R. Braithwaite	1967	124:00

<sup>\*</sup>TV mini-series

<sup>+ &</sup>quot;R" rated film

TITLE	AUTHOR	PRODUCED	TIME
Tree Grows in Brooklyn	B. Smith	1945	128:00
Turning Point	A. Laurents	1977	119:00
Up the Down Staircase	B. Kaufman	1967	124:00
Winter of Our Discontent	J. Steinbeck	1983	100:00
<sup>+</sup> World According to Garp	J. Irving	1982	136:00
Yentl	I. B. Singer	1983	134:00
Young Lions	I. Shaw	1958	167:00

<sup>+ &</sup>quot;R" rated film

# —— Chapter 6 ——

# DRAMA =

Be Seated • 112

Casting Call

**Double Standards** 

3-D

Time Warp

Front Row, Center

**Taking Transcription** 

Vital Information

**Token Gesture** 

Common Sense

Up Front • 123

Do You or Don't You?

I Get Around

Pick a Fight!

Follow My Lead

Places, Please!

By the Numbers

To Be Continued • 124

Fall in Line!

Ready When You Are, C. B.

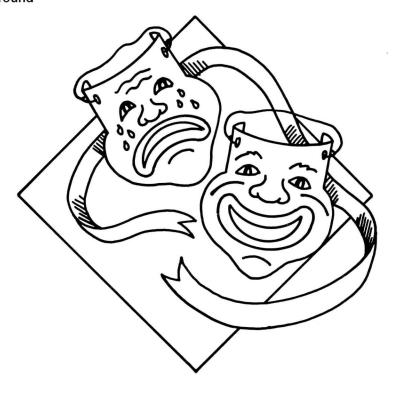
Do You Want to Know a Secret?

Drama Portfolio

I Can See Clearly Now

Recommended Book List • 129

Video List • 129



### — BE SEATED —

#### 6-1. CASTING CALL

The class runs a major movie studio in Hollywood and has decided to make a film version of the play. Who would students cast (real actors) in each role and why? Stress physical appearance and the type of roles a performer has previously been identified with as criteria for making choices.

#### 6-2. DOUBLE STANDARDS

If morality or personal standards are an issue in the play, this activity will prove useful. Students will list what they feel the main character's rules for living are as compared to their own. Based on this, they will explain why this led to conflicts in the story for the chosen character. In addition, they will have to analyze whether they would have faired any better in the same situation.

#### 6-3. 3-D

The cartoon-like characters created for television and film desensitize students to the subtleties of characterization in literature. In this exercise students will select simple (one-dimensional) characters and complex (multidimensional) ones. One-dimensional characters are nothing more than plot devices used to move the story forward, and little or nothing is known about their personalities. Multidimensional characters are active, express real emotions, and have relationships with past and present characters. After determining which category each character fits into, students will provide examples to support their answers.

#### 6-4. TIME WARP

In order to demystify what students might see as incomprehensible dialogue, have the class try this exercise. Take a clearly written passage from the play and have your class rewrite it in a different time period, going either backward or forward depending upon which direction applies to the particular reading. Two examples are (a) "To be or not to be?" becomes "Do I want to live or die?" and (b) "Mom, I want you to meet Dan. We're getting married," becomes "Mother, be so kind as to receive Daniel. He is my intended spouse."

#### 6-5. FRONT ROW, CENTER

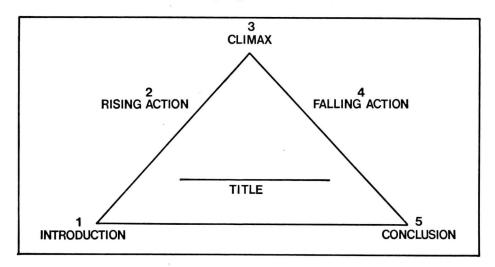
After the play has been read and perhaps viewed, have the class write a review of the work. Students will include comments on plot, characterization, sets, dialogue, costumes, and an overall impression. It is recommended they read newspaper reviews as preparation. Encourage them to inject humor if appropriate.

#### 6-6. TAKING TRANSCRIPTION

The play format allows students to read at an increased speed, but in doing so they often lose sight of important details. Choose a significant passage from the play and have each student rewrite it into composition form. This will test content comprehension and be a vivid illustration to the class of drama's unique style.

#### 6-7. VITAL INFORMATION

The Freytag Pyramid is a standard device for analyzing plot structure. Using this format (see diagram), have the class choose the vital story elements and list them in order of occurrence. From this a synopsis will be written.



#### 6-8. TOKEN GESTURE

To many students, symbolism is a vague and difficult-to-grasp dramatic element. By taking note of the symbols in the world around them, the class may find it easier to understand the symbols in the play. First, each student must obtain a magazine from which a picture or advertisement will be chosen. The student will then determine what lies beneath the surface of the picture, by analyzing what the person or object represents. Based on the results of this exercise, you can now begin a discussion of the symbols in the play being read.

#### 6-9. COMMON SENSE

Themes can be found in songs as well as in literature. In this activity, the class will take current popular songs and find themes in them. Some examples are "Star Spangled Banner" (patriotism); "My Way" (individualism); and "Beat It" (nonviolence).

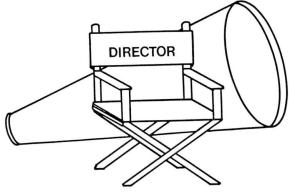
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### **CASTING CALL**

Directions: You are the president of a major Hollywood movie studio and have to cast the film version of the play you are reading. List all the main characters and give the

List all the main characters and give the name of the real actor/actress who you feel would best fit the role. Physical appearance and a performer's previous roles should guide your decisions.



PLAY/FILM TITLE:		
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CHARACTER	DESCRIPTION	PERFORMER
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Name		
Period	Date	

### **DOUBLE STANDARDS**

Directions: Personal standards are often an important issue in plays because they determine a character's behavior. Analyze the main character's actions, and then make a list of his/her rules for living. Explain why these attitudes led to a conflict in the story. Finally, examine some of your own personal standards and decide whether you would have been more successful in the same situation.

CHARACTER:	
RULES FOR LIVING:	1.
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The main character's i	rules for living led to a conflict because
	vould not (circle one) have been more successful than the main character
because	

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Name		6–3
Period	Date	•
		3-D
Directions:	simple, one-dimensional characters characters are just plot devices used about their personalities. Complex of	people and interesting people, so in plays there are and complex, multidimensional characters. Simple to move the story forward, and we learn very little characters are active, express real emotions, and have as that fit each category and explain your answers by
1		is a simple character because
2	is	also one-dimensional because
3. Howev	er,	is more complex because
4	is	also multidimensional because
-		

Period <b>-</b>	Date
	TIME WARP
Direction	as: Sometimes the dialogue of an old play remains in its original form and therefore becomes more difficult to understand as time goes by. Take a passage from the play and rewrite it in modern English.
Example:	"To be or not to be?" = "Do I want to live or die?"
	If the play is written in today's English, then switch things around to make the dialo sound as though it were written many years ago.
Example:	"Mom, I want you to meet Dan. We're getting married." = "Mother, be so kind a receive Daniel. He is my intended spouse."
ORIGINA	AL PASSAGE
-	
DEVICET	D PASSAGE
KE V ISEL	71 ASSAGE
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Name		6-5
	FRONT ROW, CENTER  Everyone likes to talk about movies and plays they have seen, but some people are paid to do it. It is now your turn to become a professional critic. You will write a review of the play you have read. Comments can be positive, negative them with specific information and examples. Reference to the professional critical and examples.	, or even funny, as long as you support ead some review (which can be found in
DI OT:	the entertainment section of most newspapers) a and then rewrite the information in complete ser	s a guide. Make notes on the sheet below itences. Try to create a catchy title.
PLOT:		
CHARA	CTERIZATION:	
SETS:		
COSTU	MES:	
DIALO	GUE:	
PERFOR	RMANCES:	
OVERA	LL IMPRESSION:	

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Name	
Period	Date

### TAKING TRANSCRIPTION

Directions: Plays are usually faster and easier to read than novels, but in speeding through them you might miss some important details. Take a passage from the play and rewrite it in composition form. By using no dialogue, you will see what a unique form drama is. Remember, you must rely only on narration and description.

ORIGINAL PASSAGE	COMPOSITION FORM

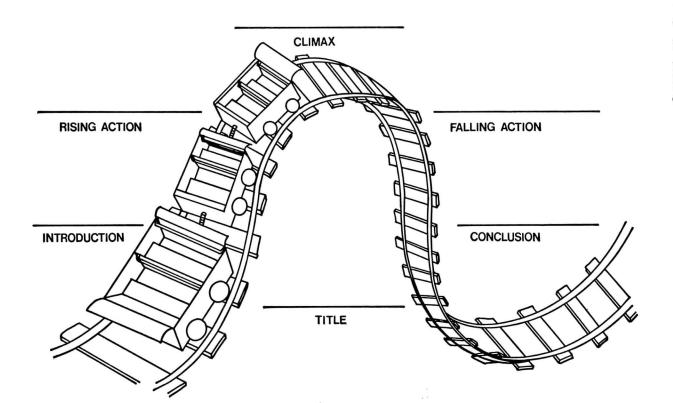
Name \_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### VITAL INFORMATION

Directions: Structure is the order of events in a play; each occurrence affects what follows. A problem (known as the conflict) is resolved as the play develops. If you think of a plot as an emotional roller coaster, it will be easier to choose the highlights.

- In the INTRODUCTION we become familiar with the setting and meet the main characters.
- During the RISING ACTION we discover relationships, and problems start to intensify.
- The CLIMAX is the emotional peak of the story. It is the point of no return.
- The FALLING ACTION is the characters' last chance to resolve their problems.
- In the CONCLUSION all mysteries are revealed and the story ends for good or bad.

Write the play's title. Think carefully and choose the major events that correspond to each of the five categories. Fill in the diagram with specific references to the story. Now you are ready to write a brief outline of the entire play. This is called a synopsis and should be done on a separate page. Include only important happenings and use complete sentences.



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Period	Date	
	TOKEN GESTURE	
Directions:	Symbolism is sometimes hard to find in a play. A symbol is something the author uses to represent somethin else.	e de la constant de l
Example:	The Statue of Liberty represents freedom.	
	Look through the pictures and advertisements of magazines such as <i>Time</i> and <i>Newsweek</i> . Try to find on that has a second meaning beneath the surface. Attact the picture to this sheet, and then explain the dua meaning. This exercise may help you find symbols it the play.	e h
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Description	on of Picture:	
Obvious Meaning:		
Symbolic	Meaning:	

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Name		6–9
Period	Date	
	COMMO	ON SENSE
Directions:	You can find a theme by analyzing the a play. The theme is an overall, com	ne words of a song, just as you can find the theme of mon element.
Examples:	"Star Spangled Banner" (patriotism) "My Way" (individualism) "Beat It" (nonviolence)	
	Choose a popular song. Decide wha example.	t the theme of it is. Include some of the lyrics as an
SONG TIT	ГLE:	
THEME: _		
LYRICS: _		
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### — Up Front —

#### DO YOU OR DON'T YOU?

Start a discussion with the following: "Think of a time when not doing something caused a problem, and another time when doing something created trouble in your life." After this concept has been explored, let the students apply this to each of the characters, thereby demonstrating the idea of static (passive) versus dynamic (active) characters.

#### I GET AROUND

This exercise will test your students' thinking and verbal skills as well as their knowledge of the characters. Using the character of their choice, give each student five minutes to conduct an interview. A round-robin method allows each student to be both interviewer and interviewee at some point, with the latter pretending to be the character selected. Answers can be direct quotes from the play or ad-libs.

#### PICK A FIGHT!

Ask some students to pretend to be characters in the play and to ad-lib an argument on an issue prominent in the story. They should keep the characters' traits, temperaments and motivations in mind. Encourage students to use language appropriate to the play, for example, they should not use slang if it is a period piece.

#### **FOLLOW MY LEAD**

To develop the concept of improvisation, have groups of students ad-lib their way through given situations unrelated to the play, to show how people deal with conflict. Some ideas are returning an unwanted item to a nasty store clerk; a student questioning a teacher about a low mark; and facing your parents after missing curfew.

#### PLACES, PLEASE!

The very nature of drama demands that it be heard as well as read. Let the class do a reading of the play as a group with the text in front of them. Choose the more verbal students to play the larger roles, but encourage everyone to participate. Emphasize both dialogue and expression. If appropriate, allow the students to walk through the action. The more they understand, the more their interest in the play and its various elements will develop.

#### BY THE NUMBERS

This exercise will demonstrate to the class the numerous options an author has in creating a plot. Divide the story into as many parts as possible. Write each plot highlight on a separate index card with the backs numbered in sequence. Display them to the class after shuffling, and then have students try to put them in the proper order. Give hints to guide students only when necessary. Discuss how their choices differed from the author's and how plot changes would alter the story.

### — To Be Continued —

#### **FALL IN LINE!**

Discuss the four forms of drama: tragedy, farce, melodrama, and comedy. To be sure the class has an understanding of what elements make each category unique, have students choose modern films or television programs that fit each form and write these on worksheet 6-10. They should then decide which categories the play being read falls into and why. Examples from the text can be used to support their choices.

#### READY WHEN YOU ARE, C. B.

If you are lucky enough to have a cooperative, interested class, let them put on their own version of the play or a section of it. You can assign responsibilities or let the students pick their own director. Everyone can get involved in some way. (See worksheet 6-11.) Areas to be considered include directing, staging, acting, sets, props, costumes, and sound effects. If your school has the facilities, let them do it on an actual stage and videotape it for them to see later. Emphasize that every student take a serious approach to his/her job to ensure the success of the project and to teach responsibility in the bargain. Give students enough time to organize the various aspects, but keep track of their progress. In other words, make sure something is being done. Make students show proof of their individual activity. Don't rely on promises. If you would prefer to have them do the project with outside works you may find the following books helpful:

Contemporary Scenes for Student Actors, edited by Michael Schulman and Eva Mekler (New York: Penguin, 1980).

Great Scenes from the World Theatre, Volume I, edited by James L. Steffensen, Jr. (New York: Avon, 1965).

Great Scenes from the World Theatre, Volume II, edited by James L. Steffensen, Jr. (New York: Avon, 1972).

Twenty-four Favorite One-Act Plays, edited by Van H. Cartmell and Bennett Cerf (New York: Doubleday, no year given).

#### DO YOU WANT TO KNOW A SECRET?

To ensure comprehension and that reading is being done, assign the following project. Each student will choose five important scenes and rewrite them, in sequence, in diary form. First, he/she must select the character that will make the entries, and thereby determine point of view. Dates and location of the action must be included. Emphasize that the writing style must be in keeping with the chosen character.

#### DRAMA PORTFOLIO

A portfolio is a compilation of creative projects that illustrates things such as visual sense, reading comprehension, and command of language. If the structure of your class allows for a long-term project, this assignment can be both interesting and imaginative. If the class is reading one play, all assignments can be based on that particular work. If more than one play will be read over the course of the year, assign a different project for each reading. The sample sheet (see 6-12) provides you with any details you will need in order to attempt this project. If you intend to use Section II on the sheet, you must supply the students with ideas for optional projects (which can be taken from other parts of this book). The sample sheet can be used as is or may require adjustments, depending upon your particular needs.

#### I CAN SEE CLEARLY NOW

A project to spark interest in the play is for each student to create a diorama of a setting based on the text description of a particular scene. It can be realistic or impressionistic. Have students discuss their dioramas. The purpose is to discover how each student visualizes the world he or she is reading about,

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Name			6–10
Period	Date		^
Directions:	FALL IN LINE!  Drama has four forms that have exidays of theater. They are tragedy, formedy.		
• TRAGED	Y — The story is about a serious sulfamily relationships, and the hero in the end.	bject, usually involves is punished or dies at	
• FARCE –	– It has a humorous but silly story, fa	st visual action, and si	mple characters.
• MELOD	RAMA — It involves a serious co intensity.	nflict, well-developed	l characters, and emotional
• COMED	Y — There is a funny, exaggerated profor the main characters.	roblem, clever dialogue	e, and it usually ends happily
	Choose four different films or televicategories. Explain your choices. Find belongs in and give a specific example.	nally, decide what cate	ave seen that fit each of the gory the play you have read
1. An exa	mple of a tragedy is		because
		75	
2. An exam	mple of a farce is		because
3		is a melodrama bec	ause
4		would be comedy bea	cause
5because _	(play title)	- is a	(category)

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Name	
Period	Date

# READY WHEN YOU ARE, C. B.

Directions: Plays, films, and television programs require teamwork. If someone does not do his/her job, the project will fail. Below is a list of crew positions for your videotape production. Fill in the names of the people chosen for each position and what each is responsible for. Use this as a guide to keep track of your progress.

Use this as a g	uide to keep track of yo	our progress.	-
POSITION	NAME		<u>DUTIES</u>
Director		_	
Writer		-	
Camera Operator			
Lighting			
Sound			
Sets, Props			
Costumes		_	
Make Up			
Performers			
NOTES:			
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## DRAMA PORTFOLIO

<u>PORTFOLIO</u> — a compilation of creative projects that illustrates things such as visual sense, reading comprehension, and command of language.

## SECTION I

- 1. Create an original book jacket (cover) for a work read in class. Include the title, author, and a visual element that is an indication of the characters or action in the story.
- 2. Choose a character from a book/play you have read who is multidimensional and interesting. Scan newspapers and magazines for pictures that illustrate this character's philosophy/attitude of life. Assemble a thematic collage (one idea) or a general collage (with mixed ideas and images).
- 3. Create a crossword puzzle for a book/play read in class. Use character names, vocabulary, story elements, and ideas from the text. Include at least ten "across" and ten "down" clues.
- 4. A T-shirt reflects the way an individual displays a personal idea or feeling. Design a T-shirt that includes an illustration (picture or drawing) and a slogan that might have been worn by a character in one of the works you have read. On the back of this sheet, briefly describe your choice.
- 5. Turn a dramatic event in a book or play you have read into a newspaper story. Locate and clip words from real newspapers to create a headline. Using only the facts presented in the text, write an article of fifty words or more that describes the action. Include the 5 W's of journalism—who, what, when, where, and why.

## **SECTION II**

Based on the portfolio ideas discussed in class, do five more projects. Any compositions must be at least one full page in length.

When completed, your portfolio will consist of ten entries (no more, no less).

Do all projects on  $8^{1/2}$ " × 11" paper (any kind).

Bind entries in a folder of your choice (Don't just staple, paper-clip, or leave loose.)

The portfolio is due on	
-------------------------	--

# — Recommended Book List ——

## For Grades 7 and 8

Doctor Faustus, by Christopher Marlowe
The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds, by Paul Zindel
Pygmalion, by George Bernard Shaw

## For Grades 9 and 10

Arsenic and Old Lace, by Joseph Kesselring A Man for All Seasons, by Robert Bolt Our Town, by Thornton Wilder

## For Grades 11 and 12

Amadeus, by Anthony Shaffer
Death of a Salesman, by Arthur Miller
A Streetcar Named Desire, by Tennessee Williams
Whose Life Is It Anyway?, by Brian Clark

# --- Video List -

TITLE	AUTHOR	PRODUCED	TIME
Amadeus	P. Shaffer	1984	158:00
Arsenic and Old Lace	J. Kesselring	1942	118:00
<sup>+</sup> Betrayal	H. Pinter	1983	95:00
Butterflies are Free	L. Gershe	1972	109:00
Cat on a Hot Tin Roof	T. Williams	1958	108:00
Death of a Salesman	A. Miller	1951	112:00
Doll's House	H. Ibsen	1973	95:00
Effect of Gamma Rays on Man- in-the-Moon Marigolds	P. Zindel	1972	101:00
†Equus	P. Shaffer	1977	138:00
Fiddler on the Roof	J. Stein	1971	180:00
For Colored Girls Who Considered Suicide/When the Rainbow is Enuf	N. Shange	1983	90:00

<sup>+ &</sup>quot;R" rated film

TITLE	AUTHOR	PRODUCED	TIME
Glass Menagerie	T. Williams	1950	107:00
*Glittering Prizes	F. Raphael	1975	480:00
Hedda Gabler (Hedda)	H. Ibsen	1976	104:00
Hobson's Choice	H. Brighouse	1954	107:00
Importance of Being Earnest	O. Wilde	1952	95:00
Long Day's Journey Into Night	E. O'Neill	1962	136:00
Man for All Seasons	R. Bolt	1966	120:00
Marty	P. Chayefsky	1955	91:00
Mourning Becomes Electra	E. O'Neill	1947	170:00
*Norman Conquests	A. Ayckbourn	1978	270:00
Our Town	T. Wilder	1940	90:00
Philadelphia Story	P. Barry	1940	112:00
Pygmalion	G. B. Shaw	1938	95:00
Rainmaker	R. Nash	1956	121:00
Shadow Box	M. Cristofer	1980	100:00
Soldier's Story	C. Fuller	1984	102:00
Streetcar Named Desire	T. Williams	1951	122:00
Subject was Roses	F. Gilroy	1968	107:00
Sweet Bird of Youth	T. Williams	1962	120:00
Three Sisters	A. Chekov	1970	165:00
Tribute	B. Slade	1980	123:00
Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?	E. Albee	1966	129:00
<sup>+</sup> Whose Life Is It Anyway?	B. Clark	1981	158:00
You Can't Take it With You	J. Farley	1938	125:00

<sup>\*</sup>TV mini-series

<sup>+&</sup>quot;R" rated film

# —— Chapter 7 ——

# HISTORICAL FICTION —

Be Seated • 132

Mistaken Identity

**Precious Time** 

R.S.V.P.

Take a Stand!

Don't Look Back!

**Ground Rules** 

**Talking Leaves** 

Extra, Extra!

**Frontiers** 

I Want to Go Back

Back Talk

Up Front • 146

Head to Head

Stick to Your Guns!

To Be Continued • 146

Newsworthy?

Alone Again

Come to Order!

Wagons, Ho!

Breaking the Chains

Golden Oldies

Recommended Book List • 148

Video List • 148



# — Be Seated —

#### 7-1. MISTAKEN IDENTITY

Historical figures often are difficult to deal with, because students often have no idea who they were or are confused as to their roles in history. In order to get a sense of your class's "H.Q." (history quotient), attempt this exercise before beginning to read. Give students the names of ten people who appear in the book and who actually lived. Then, without giving any more information, ask students who these people were and what role they played in history. You have the option to correct students' mistakes immediately or to have them rectify their own misconceptions as they read.

#### 7-2. PRECIOUS TIME

Every time period can be associated with certain types of personal belongings. Each member of the class will make up a time capsule belonging to one of the characters. It must include personal possessions indicative of the time, to be opened by his/her descendants today. In addition, students will name and explain the significance of their choices.

## 7-3. R.S.V.P.

Social gatherings often were the sites of important scenes in historical novels. Keeping the characters' relationships in mind, the student is to plan a dinner party for the main characters, including a guest list, seating plan, and menu. A discussion can follow as to whether the class feels this event would have been a success, or you can have students role play according to the worksheet.

#### 7-4. TAKE A STAND!

Throughout history people have made sacrifices for causes they've believed in. After deciding what the major issue of the novel is, each student will write an editorial as one of the characters. The format should be as follows:

- 1. State the problem.
- 2. Prove the problem exists.
- 3. Give a solution.
- Make a call for public action.

## 7-5. DON'T LOOK BACK!

This assignment can be interesting, whether some of your students have emigrated from other countries or all are native-born. The student has just arrived in a

HISTORICAL FICTION 133

new country, having left family and possessions behind. He/she is to write the first letter home explaining the reasons for departing and giving a description of current living conditions and prospects. Students may find it helpful to talk to someone who has had this experience.

## 7-6. GROUND RULES

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If the novel contains the concept of colonization, this exercise would be helpful. The student will imagine himself/herself to be the founder of a newly settled territory. He/she has the task of naming the area and creating its charter. The charter should include requirements for citizenship and civil/criminal laws and penalties,

## 7-7. TALKING LEAVES

Throughout history, man has communicated through picture writing as well as through written language. Students will create their own visual language in order to translate the sentences on the worksheet. Next, they will write sentences of their own using this language. Papers will then be exchanged, and each student will attempt to translate another's work. For some additional information on Indian sign language, these books may prove helpful;

Indian Picture Writing, by Robert Hofsinde (New York: Morrow, 1959).

Indian Sign Language, by William Tomkins (Mineola, NY: Dover, 1969).

Indian Signs & Signals, by George Fronval and Daniel Dubois (New York: Sterling, 1978).

## 7-8. EXTRA, EXTRA!

Newspapers are the oldest form of mass media and should be familiar to all your students. Using the events of the novel and keeping in mind the time period in which it was set, have the class create the front page of a newspaper. It must contain a flag (title), a main story and headline featuring the most significant event, as well as secondary stories with headlines, and drawings or pictures relating to the time period,

#### 7-9. FRONTIERS

Taking a cross-country trip in a covered wagon seems like a romantic, glamorous adventure, but in reality it was a day-to-day struggle of life and death. Keeping this in mind, the students will imagine themselves to be taking a journey through the setting of the book. They should consider the following factors: length of trip, mode of transportation, weather conditions, potential dangers, availability of food and water, and what personal items they would take.

Emphasize to students that they should be practical and sensible about their choices.

## 7-10. I WANT TO GO BACK

Would returning to a different time be as much fun as we fantasize it to be? Given the choice to return to any period of history, each student must decide what time period to return to and why, where to go, whom to meet, and what to do.

## 7-11. BACK TALK

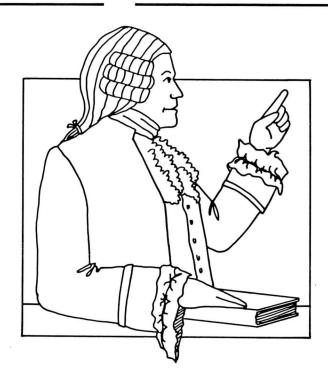
In order to do this activity, you will have to make a list of words taken from the book that are indicative of the time period. After giving the students the words along with their meanings, it will then be their task to compose sentences without relying on modern slang or idioms. You may also choose to have the class improvise conversations using these words.

Name		
Period	Date	

## MISTAKEN IDENTITY

Directions: What's your H.Q. (history quotient)? Do you know who did what—and when and where they did it? We'll see. Your teacher will give you ten names from the book you are going to read. Put these people in the first column and write down anything you know about them. After you have read the book, look at this sheet again to see how close you were to the facts.

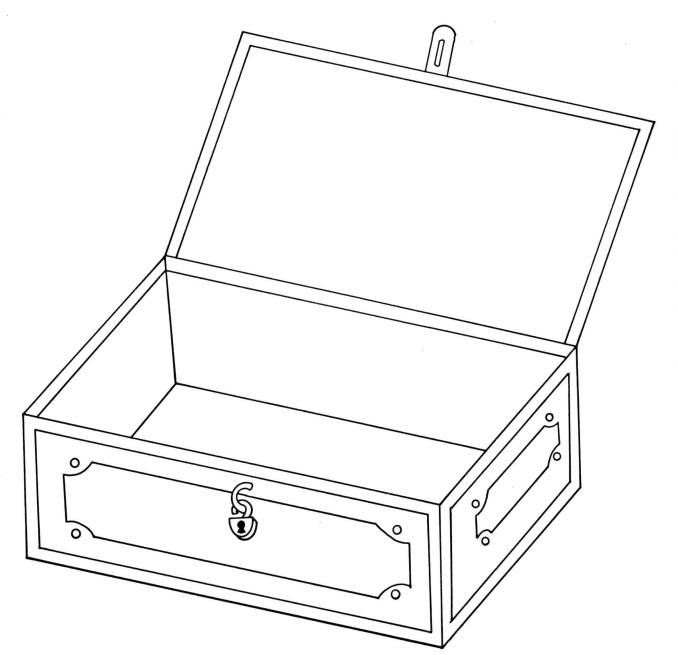
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## **PRECIOUS TIME**

Directions: Years ago, the things a person left behind were often all that the family had to remember them by. Choose a character from the story and create a kind of "time capsule." It must include personal possessions that would have existed and been owned by the person during the time period of the novel. The belongings should reveal something about the character to his/her descendants who are opening the time capsule today. Since you may not be able to obtain the items, illustrate your choices below and explain them on the back of this sheet.



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Name		-
Period	Date	

## TAKE A STAND!

Directions: Throughout history people have made sacrifices for causes they've believed in. Choose a major issue from the novel and a character who acted on this issue. Write an editorial that the person would have supported. Use the following format:

- 1. State the problem.
- 2. Prove the problem exists.
- 3. Give a solution.
- 4. Make a call for public action.



ISSUE:	CHARACTER:

7	-
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Name		
Period	Date	

# **DON'T LOOK BACK!**

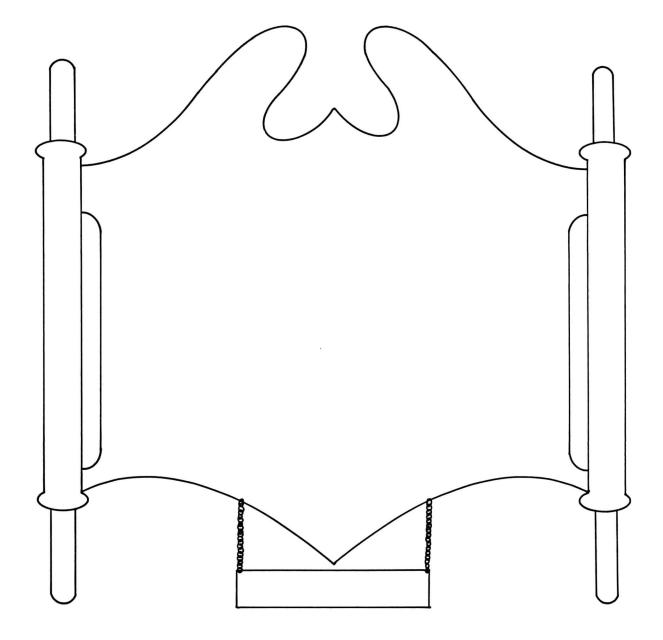
Directions: You have left your native country, family, and possessions behind in search of freedom and opportunity. After arriving in your new country, you've decided to write a letter home explaining why you left. Include a description of your current living conditions and prospects for the future (education, work, and so forth). If you know someone who has had this experience, talking to them will help.

Dear,	
I have arrived safely in(new location)	. You must be very worried
so I will tell you how I am and why I took such a drastic step as to leave	(homeland)
mingue /º	
	(signature)
000000000000000000000000000000000000000	(signature)
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Name	
Period	Date

# **GROUND RULES**

Directions: You have founded a new territory, but there's no time for congratulations. You have a lot of work to do. First, your town/city needs a name. The people who live there need rules. Create a charter that includes requirements for citizenship, civil/criminal laws, and penalties. Good luck!



Period _	Date	
	TALKING LEAVES	
Direction	It is your job to create a new visual language using only symbols (no words). First, translate the five sentences below into the language you have invented. Then write five sentences in sign language, give the paper to a classmate, and have him/her try to figure out the meanings in English. Keep the expressions simple and make the symbols relate to their meanings.	All die Min Line Min
The new	language is called	
1. Carry	the basket to the table.	
2. Do yo	u hear the bird singing?	
3. Music	smiles on the earth.	
4. Stop a	nd smell the flowers.	
5. Look	For a light in the forest.	

Put the second part of this activity on the back of this sheet.

Name		
Pariod	Date	

# EXTRA, EXTRA!

Directions: You are the editor of the biggest newspaper in the town where your story is set. You'll need a name for the publication, a main story and headline featuring the most significant event of the day, secondary stories with headlines, and drawings or pictures. All your information should relate to things that happened in the novel. Hurry! You have a deadline to meet.



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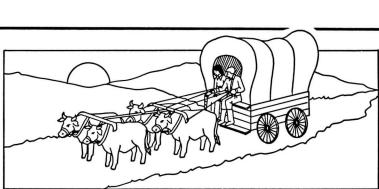
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Name		
Period	Date	

# **FRONTIERS**

Directions: Taking a cross-country trip in a covered wagon seems like a romantic, glamorous adventure, but in reality it was a day-to-day struggle of life and death. Imagine yourself to be taking a journey through the setting of the book. Decide what you will need to bring along, but be sensible and practical in making your choices.

Destination:	
Time period:	
	Mode of transportation:
	•
Potential Dangers:	
Food and water:	



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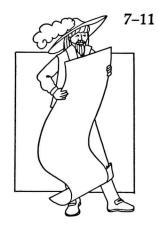
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Name Period Date	4
I WANT TO GO BACK	
Directions: Would returning to a different time be as much fun as we fantasize it to be? The time machine is set and ready to go. Have a nice trip!	
1. What time period will you return to?	`

	1

1.	What time period will you return to?
2.	Why that time period?
3.	What specific place will you go to?
4.	Who would you most like to meet there?
5.	Why that particular person?
6.	What is something you will be able to do then that you can't do today?

Name		_
Period	Date	



## **BACK TALK**

Directions: You are going to return to the time period in which the book is set, but will you be able to communicate with the people who lived then? Here's your chance to practice. Your teacher will give you words from the book. When you are sure you understand their meanings, try to use them in sentences that fit the style of the novel. Remember, no modern expressions are allowed.

WORD	MEANING	SENTENCE
1.		
2,		
3,		
4.		
5,		
6.		
7.		
8.		
9.		
10.		

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## — Up Front —

#### **HEAD TO HEAD**

If your book involves a one-to-one conflict, then this exercise deals with the emotions and intensity of such a situation. You need to set up a premise in which two characters of opposing views are forced to meet. Some examples are in a prison camp; on a battlefield; and in a public place or a private residence. Select students to act out the scene to a logical conclusion, keeping in mind the personalities of the characters and mood of the times.

#### STICK TO YOUR GUNS!

Debates have long been a classic form of confrontation. Choose the major issue found in your novel. Select students to represent the two points of view, either using actual people from the story or generic characters. Encourage students to stick to the standard debate format:

- 1. Each side gives its opening arguments.
- 2. Each side rebuts the arguments of the other side.
- 3. Both sides respond to questions from a panel or from the audience.
- 4. The class chooses the winner by voting.

## — To Be Continued —

## **NEWSWORTHY?**

Will events that capture our attention today have any meaning to the world 100 years from now? Over a designated period of time, students will keep a scrapbook consisting of front page headlines. This will be followed by a class discussion in which students will predict which (if any) of the events will be considered significant in the future. Next, each will choose one headline from the scrapbook around which an original story will be created. It is important that students not simply retell the actual event; they should use the event only as a springboard for creating an imaginative composition.

## **ALONE AGAIN**

Students will create a new character who, as an observer, will chronicle the events of the story in diary form. Style as well as content should be stressed. Students should make every effort to have the diary resemble something that would have been written in the time period when the book was set. This means the pages,

HISTORICAL FICTION 147

cover, and binding cannot be made of modern day materials. For example, if the novel is set prior to the twentieth century, the pages should be yellowed and worn. The cover should be of wood and can be bound with ribbon or string. Use whatever standards are applicable to the book.

## **COME TO ORDER!**

For this activity, turn the classroom into a courtroom. A character from the novel will be put on trial for treason. The following roles are needed: defendant (book character), prosecuting attorney, defense attorney, witnesses (book characters), judge, and jury. Students selected for the parts of the judge and attorneys will largely be responsible for controlling the action. Therefore, choose those members of the class who are well-versed in the details of the book, have verbal ability, and are able to "think on their feet." Use actual events from the book or create new ones.

## **WAGONS, HO!**

In the spirit of the pioneers, have the class map the physical movement of the main characters. Each student must create his/her own map based on descriptions in the novel. The map must be clearly labeled and should include the route used, indications of physical terrain (such as rivers, mountains, and the like), and a legend.

## **BREAKING THE CHAINS**

If slavery is an issue in the novel, the following project can be interesting and enlightening. However, it is recommended that you keep in mind the students' racial and ethnic attitudes before beginning the project. The class must be divided in half, based on a physical characteristic (such as eye/hair color or height) that can be chosen at random. One group will be designated as the masters, the other as the slaves. Over a specified time period, the slaves will do the bidding of the masters in simple everyday tasks (carrying books, cleaning up, running errands, and so forth). It is strongly suggested that you caution the class in advance that this is only an experiment and not an excuse for abusing another student. A follow-up discussion should be held. Before beginning this exercise, decide whether the initial activity is sufficient or whether you want them to switch roles in order for every student to experience both sides of the situation.

## **GOLDEN OLDIES**

Like movie sound tracks, popular music is representative of when and where people live. First, each member of the class will obtain a recording of a piece of music from the time period in which the story is set. The class will vote as a group on their favorite, which will then be made into a music video. Stress that the student's choice should be easily adapted to a visual presentation. Visuals can be created through live

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action and/or still pictures. For further details, see the appendices, which are entitled "Tangled Wires: Unraveling the World of Video."

## ---- Recommended Book List ----

## For Grades 7 and 8

Across Five Aprils, by Irene Hunt Johnny Tremain, by Esther Forbes Where the Lilies Bloom, by Vera and Bill Cleaver Witch of Blackbird Pond, by Elizabeth George Speare

## For Grades 9 and 10

Andersonville, by MacKinlay Kantor Centennial, by James Michener

#### For Grades 11 and 12

I, Claudius, by Robert Graves Lion in Winter, by James Goldman Playing for Time, by Fania Fenelon Roots, by Alex Haley

## --- Video List ---

TITLE	AUTHOR	PRODUCED	TIME
All Quiet on the Western Front	E. M. Remarque	1930	105:00
Andersonville (Andersonville Trial)	M. Kantor	1970	150:00
Anne of a Thousand Days	M. Anderson	1969	145:00
Bastard	J. Jakes	1978	192:00
Becket	J. Anouilh	1964	148:00
*Blue and the Gray	B. Catton	1982	384:00
*Centennial	J. Michener	1979	1500:00
Cry the Beloved Country	A. Paton	1951	111:00
Doctor Zhivago	B. Pasternak	1965	192:00

<sup>\*</sup> TV mini-series

TITLE	AUTHOR	PRODUCED	TIME
Elizabeth the Queen	M. Anderson	1939	106:00
*Ellis Island	F. M. Stewart	1984	317:00
Farewell to Manzanar	J. Houston	1976	105:00
Guns of Navarone	A. Maclean	1961	157:00
*Holocaust	G. Greene	1978	570:00
How the West was Won	L. L'Amour	1963	155:00
*I, Claudius	R. Graves	1978	715:00
Johnny Tremain	E. Forbes	1957	80:00
Lion in Winter	J. Goldman	1968	135:00
Mary of Scotland	M. Anderson	1936	123:00
*Masada	E. Gann	1981	384:00
Mister Roberts	T. Heggen	1955	123:00
Nicholas and Alexandra	R. Massie	1971	183:00
Night to Remember	W. Lord	1958	123:00
*QB VII	L. Uris	1974	293:00
Quo Vadis	H. Sienkiewicz	1951	171:00
Ragtime	E. L. Doctorow	1981	156:00
Red Badge of Courage	S. Crane	1951	69:00
Right Stuff	T. Wolfe	1983	192:00
*Roots	A. Hailey	1977	648:00
1776	P. Stone	1972	141:00
<sup>+</sup> Sophie's Choice	W. Styron	1982	157:00
*Town Like Alice	N. Shute	1983	330:00
Where the Lilies Bloom	V. & B. Cleaver	1974	96:00
*Winds of War	H. Wouk	1983	846:00
Year of Living Dangerously	C. J. Koch	1983	114:00

<sup>\*</sup> TV mini-series

<sup>+ &</sup>quot;R" rated film

# —— Chapter 8 ——

# MYSTERY ===

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Catch Me If You Can

Any Last Requests?

No More Mr. Nice Guy

Scared Straight

Masquerade

I've Seen That Face Before

Show and Tell

Dream On

Up Front • 162

**Shifty Eyes** 

Would You Believe?

Will the Real \_\_\_\_\_ Please Stand!

Seeing is Believing

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Stop, Look, and Listen

Where Were You on the Night of \_\_\_\_\_?

Somebody's Watching Me

Gone Fishing

Have You Reached a Verdict?

Cliffhanger

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## —— Be Seated ——

#### 8-1. CATCH ME IF YOU CAN

This activity uses the skill of detail analysis while, at the same time, adding some fun to class time. First, obtain a copy of fingerprint patterns. (Fingerprints are classified according to various identifiable patterns, although no two sets of fingerprints are exactly the same.) Next, fingerprint each student, making a complete set of all ten fingers. Students will then use the sample patterns to decide which pattern most closely matches their own fingerprints. Following this, each student will write a brief physical and personal description of himself/herself, which the other members of the class will use to try to identify the student. The worksheets can be read to the class or displayed on a bulletin board.

## 8-2. ANY LAST REQUESTS?

If the villain of the book has committed a capital crime (punishable by death), then this exercise is applicable. Each member of the class will imagine himself/herself to be a reporter who is taking the character's last statement during his/her last hours on death row. The statement must detail the crime(s) committed, explain the criminal's actions, and give reasons for a possible pardon.

## 8-3. NO MORE MR. NICE GUY

Even though a character in a mystery is designated as the "hero," he/she is not necessarily guiltless. After carefully examining the hero's actions, without taking motivation into consideration, the student will list the "crimes" committed by the main character. Next, students are asked whether the hero could have avoided committing "crimes" by choosing an alternative course of action.

## 8-4. SCARED STRAIGHT

Many mysteries conclude with the arrest of the villain, who arrogantly accepts his/her fate. But in the face of the reality of jail, would he/she be so confident? Based on the student's knowledge of the character, he/she will imagine himself/herself to be the prison psychologist assigned to observe the subject. The worksheet includes questions on behavior, relationships, and general adaptability to incarceration.

#### 8-5. MASQUERADE

Disguise is often a criminal's best weapon, but it is not an easy technique to master. To demonstrate this concept, each student must obtain a picture of himself/

MYSTERY 153

herself or someone famous and alter the appearance. The class will try to guess the subject's identity and discuss how the appearance could have been altered more effectively.

## 8-6. I'VE SEEN THAT FACE BEFORE

Mystery stories are usually wrapped up quickly and easily for the benefit of the reader. Therefore, students do not realize how long it takes for a case to come to trial. Choose a major incident (either in school or in the news) that has occurred in the recent past with which the class would be familiar. Have the students give as many details as possible. This will illustrate the difficulty of witnesses' being accurate in a trial after time has passed.

## 9-7. SHOW AND TELL

In order to be actively involved in a mystery novel, the reader must retain plot details that at the time seem insignificant. This activity will sharpen students' skills of observation and test their ability to memorize. They will have one minute to scan the 32 items on the worksheet, at which time they will turn over the paper and list as many objects as they can remember. If you would like to take the exercise one step further, show the class a picture or videotape of a scene containing various elements, and have them do the exercise again.

## 8-8. DREAM ON

Appeal to every person's fantasy. Assign each student to plan what he/she believes would be the perfect crime, step by step, beginning to end. The student must include the following: crime; accomplices; location and layout of crime scene; tools and weapons; means of escape; clothing/disguise; and alibi.

Read each aloud and have the class find any flaws.

Name	
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## **CATCH ME IF YOU CAN**

Directions: Every person is born with a unique set of fingerprints. Fingerprinting is therefore a standard means of identification, and is often used for solving crimes in mystery novels. Your teacher will show you basic fingerprint patterns, which you will study carefully. Try to determine which category your fingerprints fall into. At the bottom of the page, give a brief description of yourself that others could use to identify you.

F I N G E R P R I N T S		
My finger	prints are closest to the	
PERSONA	AL DESCRIPTION:	



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Name	
Period	Date

# ANY LAST REQUESTS?

Directions: The villain of the novel has been caught, tried, and sentenced to death for the crime(s) committed. Hours before the execution, your newspaper sends you to take this person's final statements for a front page article. Be sure to include details of the crime(s), why the person did what he/she did, and reasons for a possible pardon.

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HEADLINE		
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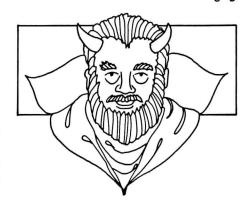
Name	
Period	Date

Character: -

# NO MORE MR. NICE GUY

Directions: Just because a character is considered a "hero," he/she is not always guiltless. Without thinking about why, list all the "crimes" committed by the "good guy." Was an alternative course of action possible? If you answer no, explain why. If you

choose yes, give another course of action.



CRIME	NO/YES	EXPLANATION/ALTERNATIVE
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Name		
Period	Date	

# **SCARED STRAIGHT**

Directions: People who commit crimes must be arrogant enough to think they can succeed. But if they are caught and sent to prison, would they still be as confident? Imagine that the novel's main criminal finds him/herself in this situation and that you are the state-appointed psychologist assigned to observe how this person does or does not adapt to prison life. Based on your knowledge of this character, fill out the report below.

Subject:	
Crimes Committed:	
Sentence:	
Assigned Duties:	
Based on my time with the subject, I have observed the following:	
Spends most of free time	
Personal space contains the following items:	
Relationship with fellow inmates is	
Overall, I believe the subject is/is not (circle one) adapting to incarceration because	

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		Date				8–5
		N	MASQUER	ADE		
Directions:	photograph	, change the app	l's best weapon, pearance of your an, but be realis	self or of a fam	ı easy skill to mast nous person who is	er. Using a familiar to
Subject: _						
Original p	hysical desci	iption of the su	bject:			

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Name	
Period	Date

# I'VE SEEN THAT FACE BEFORE

Directions: Criminal trials usually take so long to complete that witnesses often testify many months after the actual crime has taken place. Using a major incident, either in school or in the news, list as many details as you can remember. Compare your answers to your classmates'. Were you a reliable witness?

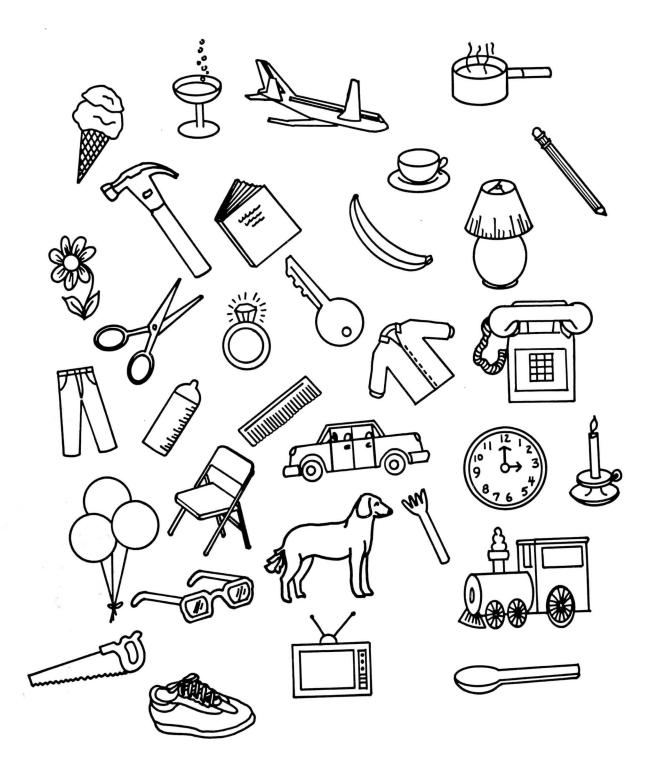
Briefly describe the incident:	
•	
Name the individuals involved:	
Location of the incident:	
Time of the incident:	
Was the situation resolved? If so, how? If not, why?	

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Period \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_

# **SHOW AND TELL**

Directions: A good witness must be observant and have a reliable memory. Scan the 32 items on this sheet for one minute. Turn over the paper and list as many as you can. Repeat the process until you have them all written down. Keep track of how many times you had to look at the items.

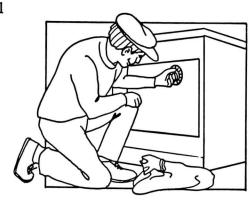


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Name	
Period	Date

DREAM ON  Directions: This is your chance to fulfill a fantasy. You will plan the perfect crime. It is not as easy as it seems. Carefully consider each item listed below,						
Accomplices:						
Location/layout of crime scene:						
		r e				
				a		
Tools/weapons:						
Means of escape:						
Clothing/disguise:	8					
Alibi:						
P						
Time (when to be committed/how l	long needed): 🗕					

On the back of this sheet, describe step-by-step how you will proceed on the day/night of the crime,



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# — Up Front —

### **SHIFTY EYES**

The depiction of criminals in mystery novels is often romanticized and stereotyped, and so criminals are often easy to identify. But are such depictions always accurate? In reality, criminals can be wide-eyed maniacs or the boy next door. Obtain several pictures, with one being of an actual criminal. Describe the crime, and have the class try to choose the guilty person. Discuss the deceptive qualities of appearance. The following book may be of help with this project.

Encyclopedia of American Crime, by Carl Sifakis (New York: Facts on File, 1983).

### **WOULD YOU BELIEVE?**

Most mystery novels contain spectacular, exciting crimes that seem far removed from our day-to-day existence. In reality, though, we break laws everyday. In order to test your class's legal savvy, try the following activity. Using a reference book on obscure laws, have the class act out breaking as many of these laws as possible. Intersperse some of your own "homemade" laws. Students are to then decide whether they have committed any crimes. After telling them about any laws that have actually been broken, students are to discuss whether such laws are fair and reasonable.

### WILL THE REAL \_\_\_\_\_ PLEASE STAND!

As a plot review, this exercise can be done after the book has been read. Select three students to portray the criminal in a reworking of the "To Tell the Truth" TV game show. Designate one student to tell the truth and the other two to deliberately give some false information. The class will then determine who the real criminal is. The class will act as a panel and ask pointed questions to get to the truth. When enough information has been gathered, the class will make their choice.

### SEEING IS BELIEVING

This project can be an extremely effective demonstration on the credibility of witnesses. Arrange for a student from another class to come in during the course of your lesson and do one of the following: (a) Have him/her start an argument, pretend to assault you and run out; or (b) Have him/her give you a message that requires you to leave the room. The student takes your purse/wallet, which you have purposely left in plain sight, and leaves. You return and discover the theft.

After the class has settled down, ask them to fully describe the perpetrator of the crime. Then have the student return and see how accurate they were.

# — To Be Continued —

### STOP, LOOK, AND LISTEN

Are people victims by choice or by accident? If the reader is observant, he/she will note actions/situations that have led to the victim's fate. The student will list on worksheet 8-9 all the things done by the victim(s) that could have contributed to his/her problem. The student then will decide if these actions were necessary, and explain why or why not.

### WHERE WERE YOU ON THE NIGHT OF \_\_\_\_\_?

Pick a fictional murder victim personally known to all members of the class (for example, the principal of the school). Invent the exact time, scene, and method of the crime and give these details to the entire class. Then have five students actually plan the murder as they would have committed it. Each is to give a confession before the class, explaining how and why they did it. Indicate beforehand which one of the volunteers is the real murderer. Instruct the others to make a mistake on one detail in their story, so that if the class is paying attention, they can determine the actual criminal based on the accuracy of his/her story.

### SOMEBODY'S WATCHING ME

Being a detective is not nearly as glamorous as it may appear to be. "Tailing" a subject is a necessary part of crime detection, but is usually a long, tedious job. Have each student keep a surveillance diary (see worksheet 8-10) on a subject during the course of one day. The student must then decide if anything the person did could be misinterpreted. For example, does he/she have any unexplained absences, phone calls, or visitors that could be considered suspicious?

### **GONE FISHING**

In order to keep the reader guessing, the author will purposely insert false clues known as red herrings. As they read, the class will list all possible clues on worksheet 8-11. At the conclusion of the novel, each sudent will decide which of the clues gave accurate information and which were misleading.

### HAVE YOU REACHED A VERDICT?

As a way of reviewing the book, try putting the criminal on trial. Assign roles as criminal, witnesses (from the book), judge, defense and prosecuting attorneys, and jury. The jury is responsible for the verdict and the sentence. Students selected for the parts of the judge and attorneys will largely be responsible for controlling the

164 MYSTERY

action. Therefore, choose those members of the class who are well-versed in the details of the book, have verbal ability, and are able to "think on their feet." This activity will serve as a good illustration of the complexities of the judicial system.

### **CLIFFHANGER**

Is it possible to stay ahead of the author of a mystery? Let the class view any mystery film or television show, but stop the tape before the end. Have the students complete worksheet 8-12, noting significant clues and information that should lead them to formulate a solution to the crime. Try to choose a lesser known title to keep them guessing. Recommended is any episode of *Perry Mason*, *Ellery Queen*, or *Murder*, *She Wrote*. Before showing the actual conclusion, have a class discussion and vote on the most likely outcome.

### FRONT PAGE NEWS

Literary crimes are expected to be more spectacular than those committed in real life, but is this always the case? After completing the novel the student will list and categorize on worksheet 8-13 all crimes perpetrated. Next, they will locate and research a real-life crime similar to one found in the story, either in style or motivation. Based on their findings, they will compare and contrast the two.

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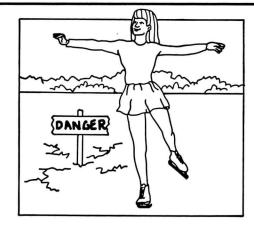
Name	
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8-9

# STOP, LOOK, AND LISTEN

*Directions*: Are people victims by choice or by accident? If you are observant, you will notice actions/situations that led to the victim's fate. Decide what this person did that contributed to his/her problems, and discuss whether this could have been avoided.

Character:	
Crime committed against that person:	
This person was a victim because he/she	
•	
This could/could not (circle one) have been avoided because	



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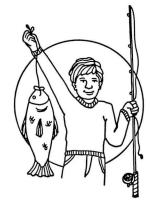
Name	
Period	Date

# **SOMEBODY'S WATCHING ME**

Directions: Being a detective is not nearly as glamorous as it may appear. "Tailing" a subject is a long, boring job that is often necessary in solving a crime. Keep a surveillance diary on a willing subject during the course of one day. After gathering this information, decide if any of the actions could be considered suspicious.

Subject:	
Observed from to	<del></del> .
Activities:	
Activities that could be considered suspicious were	
because	
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Name	
Period	Date



# **GONE FISHING**

Directions: To keep the reader guessing, the author often inserts false information called "red herrings." As you read, list all given clues. When you are finished with the novel, decide which were real facts and which were misleading.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION	REAL CLUES	RED HERRINGS

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Name		
Period	Date	

# **CLIFFHANGER**

Directions: Is it possible to stay ahead of the author of a mystery? This is your chance to try. You will watch a mystery program and note important information. Just before viewing the conclusion, tally the facts you observed and write what you think is the most logical solution. Good luck, Sherlock!



Characters:	
Crime:	
Suspects/motivations:	
a a	
Significant clues:	
Your chosen ending:	
Tour Chosen Champ.	

		8-1
Period <b>_</b>	Date	
	FRONT PAGE NEWS	
Directions	Fictional crimes are expected to be more spectacular than those committed in real life, but is this always true? List all crimes perpetrated in the story. Now, locate and research a real-life crime that was similar in style or motivation to one from the novel.	
FICTION	AL CRIMES:	
REAL CR	IME:	
Similariti	es;	
	es:	
Difference		
	,	
T.1 . 1 .1		
I think th	e fictional/real crime (circle one) was more interesting because	

### For Grades 7 and 8

Blackbriar, by William Sleator Rogues Gallery: A Variety of Mystery Stories, by Walter B. Gibson The Westing Game, by Ellen Raskin

### For Grades 9 and 10

Dial M for Murder, by Frederick Knott
The Hound of the Baskervilles, by Arthur Conan Doyle
Witness for the Prosecution, by Agatha Christie

### For Grades 11 and 12

Deathtrap, by Ira Levin Marathon Man, by William Goldman Rebecca, by Daphne du Maurier Sleuth, by Anthony Shaffer

# --- Video List ---

TITLE	AUTHOR	PRODUCED	TIME
And Then There Were None	A. Christie	1945	98:00
<sup>+</sup> Boys From Brazil	I. Levin	1978	123:00
Charade	R. Stratton	1963	114:00
Day of the Jackal	F. Forsyth	1973	141:00
Death on the Nile	A. Christie	1978	140:00
<sup>+</sup> Deathtrap	I. Levin	1982	116:00
Dial M for Murder	F. Knott	1954	105:00
Ellery Queen (Ellery Queen			
—Master Detective)	E. Queen	1940	66:00
<sup>+</sup> Eye of the Needle	K. Follett	1981	112:00
<sup>+</sup> First Deadly Sin	L. Sanders	1980	112:00
Great Train Robbery	M. Crichton	1979	111:00

<sup>+ &</sup>quot;R" rated film

TITLE	AUTHOR	PRODUCED	TIME
*Helter Skelter	V. Bugliosi	1976	194:00
Hound of the Baskervilles	A. C. Doyle	1959	84:00
In Cold Blood	T. Capote	1967	134:00
Jamaica Inn	D. du Maurier	1939	98:00
<sup>†</sup> Marathon Man	W. Goldman	1976	125:00
Mirror Crack'd	A. Christie	1980	105:00
Murder by Death	N. Simon	1976	94:00
Murder on the Orient Express	A. Christie	1974	127:00
Odessa File	F. Forsyth	1974	128:00
Rebecca	D. du Maurier	1940	130:00
*Reilly: Ace of Spies	R. Lockhart	1984	605:00
Seven Percent Solution	N. Meyer	1976	113:00
Six Days of the Condor			
(Three Days of the Condor)	J. Grady	1975	117:00
Sleuth	A. Shaffer	1972	138:00
Stranger is Watching	M. Clark	1982	92:00
Sweeney Todd	S. Sondheim	1985	120:00
Thin Man	D. Hammett	1934	93:00
Who is Killing the Great			
Chefs of Europe?	I. Lyons	1978	112:00
Witness for the Prosecution	A. Christie	1957	114:00

<sup>\*</sup>TV mini-series

<sup>+ &</sup>quot;R" rated film

# ---- Chapter 9 ----

# FAIRY TALES FABLES FABLES

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At the Movies

Holding Out for a Hero

Family Honor

Do You Believe in Magic?

Larger Than Life

The Real Scoop

Thunder or Thor's Hammer?

Word to the Wise

You've Got the Power

Lived Happily Ever After?

Rambo and the Three Bears

Stop the Presses!

Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous

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Good Guys Finish First

A God Without Pity

To Be Continued • 190

For the Record

Who Was That Masked God?

Campaign Trail

Word of Mouth

Point of Origin

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# —— Be Seated ——

### 9-1. AT THE MOVIES

It is a simple fact that myths often contain violence. If the myth the students have just read were to be turned into a movie, what rating would it get? Students will list all violent activities found in the myth. These can be verbal (threats) or physical (death, destruction). Students must justify their rating by providing specific examples.

### 9-2. HOLDING OUT FOR A HERO

Heroes seem to be a thing of the past. In this assignment, students will create a hero for the twentieth century. They will be responsible for visualizing the hero and designating a job for him/her. Students are to describe the hero's appearance and make an illustration. Finally, they will create a story that incorporates the hero's abilities.

### 9-3. FAMILY HONOR

The content of a family crest is representative of history as well as personal traits. Students will design a coat of arms for a family or individual in the story. The items and colors selected should be indicative of information given in the narrative.

### 9-4. DO YOU BELIEVE IN MAGIC?

Children have no understanding of scientific facts. They therefore see many events as magical, as did the people in ancient times who created the myths we read today. Each student will determine one thing in modern society that would have been considered magical by people in the past. He/she will write a story that shows how ancient people would have made sense of it.

### 9-5. LARGER THAN LIFE

Paul Bunyan, John Henry, and Pecos Bill are all folk heroes whose deeds have made them interesting story characters. Students will choose a real person and write a tall tale with that person as the main character. They should use characteristics of the person that can be exaggerated in the tall tale. Highly recommended people would be sports heroes, politicians, and action-movie heroes. The class may also enjoy using faculty members as characters if this would not offend any other teacher.

### 9-6. THE REAL SCOOP

Propose the following situation to the class: One of the gods in the story they have read has been fired and wants to tell his/her side of the story. Students will

write a "sensational" news story exposing the "shocking" details of the character's life and his/her relationship to the other gods. They should include an eye-catching headline and an illustration. This is one exercise in which "yellow journalism" is allowed and encouraged.

### 9-7. THUNDER OR THOR'S HAMMER?

Myths often attempt to explain phenomena such as snow, volcanoes, the changing seasons, and other natural events. Each student will select an act of nature and explain the origin of this occurrence in the style of a myth. New gods can be invented or ones previously learned about may be used.

### 9-8. WORD TO THE WISE

Many expressions have become a part of everyday speech, but few people know the origins of these expressions. In this assignment, students will write a fable to explain a famous maxim. Some possibilities are "A penny saved is a penny earned," "Don't count your chickens before they're hatched," and "A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush."

### 9-9. YOU'VE GOT THE POWER

In mythology all gods have some superhuman powers, which appeal to the reader's imagination. Students will pick a god and pretend they have the god's powers. They will then list what they would do for 24 hours and explain the effects of their actions. Encourage students to consider situations beyond their personal scope.

### 9-10. LIVED HAPPILY EVER AFTER?

Fairy tales have come under attack for being too violent and therefore for being frightening to children. But perhaps their appeal is due to the fact we know they will end happily. In this exercise, the student will be asked to be realistic. By following the course of events of a fairy tale of their choice, students will create an alternate conclusion. They will rewrite the tale from the turning point to the end.

### 9-11. RAMBO AND THE THREE BEARS

Fairy tales usually have standard heroes and villains. How would a character who doesn't fit the usual mold affect the outcome of the story? A fictional character from television, film, or another book should be chosen and added to the fairy tale. The plot will be rewritten incorporating this person's involvement. Some possible characters are Mr. Spock, Indiana Jones, or James Bond.

### 9-12. STOP THE PRESSES!

News reporting and mythology have several factors in common. In order for a story to be newsworthy, the events must be both important and interesting. The actions of the characters in myths are important because they affect the fate of all concerned; and the characters are interesting because they have powers that make them larger than life. After reading a variety of myths, have the class choose one and rewrite it as a news story. Be sure students include who, what, where, when, why, and how. They should exclude any information that would be considered opinion.

### 9-13. LIFESTYLES OF THE RICH AND FAMOUS

Greek gods lived on Mount Olympus, while the Norse gods called Valhalla home. The class will first write a description of the gods' kingdoms they have read about. Based on this information, they will then illustrate the location. Students should keep in mind the self-indulgent lifestyles of the gods.

Name			9–1
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	AT THE MOVI  You should have noticed from contain much violence. If the stor movie, what rating would it recombete whether they be verbal (three destruction). Provide a specific explain your choice for the overall	your reading that myths y were to be turned into a eive? List all violent acts, ats) or physical (death/xample from the text, and	
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RATINGS	: G — For General Audiences PG and PG-13 — Parental Guid R — Restricted, no one under 17 X — No one under 17 admitted		or guardian
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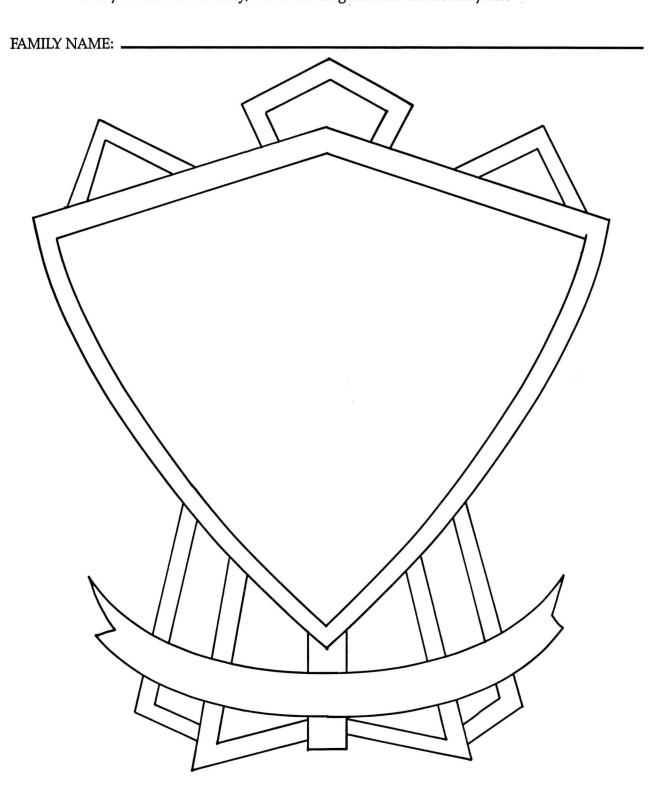
# HOLDING OUT FOR A HERO

Directions:	Thousands of years ago, people created gods and myths because they needed something to believe in. Today, we no longer accept the myths, but we still look for heroes in places such as sports, politics, and even rock and roll. Create a hero for the twentieth century. Decide what power such a hero would have, describe and visualize his/her appearance, and finally, write a myth explaining his/her existence.
My choice	for a hero of the twentieth century is
His/her po	owers include
Physical D	Description:
Put a pictu	are or illustration below.

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

# **FAMILY HONOR**

Directions: A "coat of arms" or "family crest" symbolizes the tradition and history of the bloodline of a particular group of people. Keeping in mind the actions and characteristics of the hero/heroine of the story, create an insignia that reflects him/her.



Name	9–4
	Date
	DO YOU BELIEVE IN MAGIC?
Directions:	In ancient times, people had less knowledge of science than we have today. They accepted certain natural occurrences (weather, sickness) as being the result of magic. Think carefully about something we consider explainable today that would have been seen as magical by people in the past. Write a story as they would have that explains the event.
Something	I think ancient people would have seen as magical is
Imagine yo have just v	ourself to be living thousands of years ago. Write an explanation of the amazing thing you vitnessed.



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Name		_
Period	Date	

# LARGER THAN LIFE

Directions: Paul Bunyan, John Henry, and Pecos Bill are all folk heroes whose amazing deeds make them interesting characters. Choose a well-known person who is living today (or someone your teacher may suggest) and write a tall-tale about that person. Use the chosen subject's real characteristics, but exaggerate them to create an exciting story.

SUBJECT:				
NOTABLE CH	IARACTERISTICS:	:		
Appearance: .				
Abilities:				
Mannerisms:				
Activities (wor	k/interests):			
,				
TALL-TALE T	ITLE:			

Using the characteristics listed above, write a tall-tale about the subject on the back of this paper or on a separate sheet.

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Name		
Period	Date	

# THE REAL SCOOP

Directions: Imagine that one of the gods in the story you have read has been fired and stripped of his/her powers. This person is angry and wants to tell his/her side of what happened. Write a "sensational" news story exposing the "shocking" details of the character's life and his/her relationship to the other gods. Include an eye-catching headline and an illustration.

 (head	lline)	
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Name			
Period	Date		

# THUNDER OR THOR'S HAMMER?

Directions: Myths are often attempts to explain phenomena such as snow, volcanoes, the changing seasons, and other natural events. Select an act of nature and write a myth that describes its origin. Use gods you have read about or invent new ones.

The natural event I will explain is

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Period	Date
	WORD TO THE WISE
Directions:	We use expressions everyday, but usually have no idea what their original meanings were.
Examples:	"A penny saved is a penny earned." "Don't count your chickens before they're hatched." "A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush."
	The sayings listed above are called "maxims." Write a fable whose main point is a maxim of your choice,
MAXIM:	
There once	e was a
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# YOU'VE GOT THE POWER

Directions: One reason myths are so popular is that we enjoy seeing the gods use their supernatural powers. Choose a god and imagine you have his/her powers. Then make a list of everything you would do for 24 hours, and explain the consequences of your actions. This is a big responsibility! Remember that people outside your personal environment can benefit from your actions.

Powers: .

<u>ACTIONS</u>	RESULTS
	i



Name of god: -



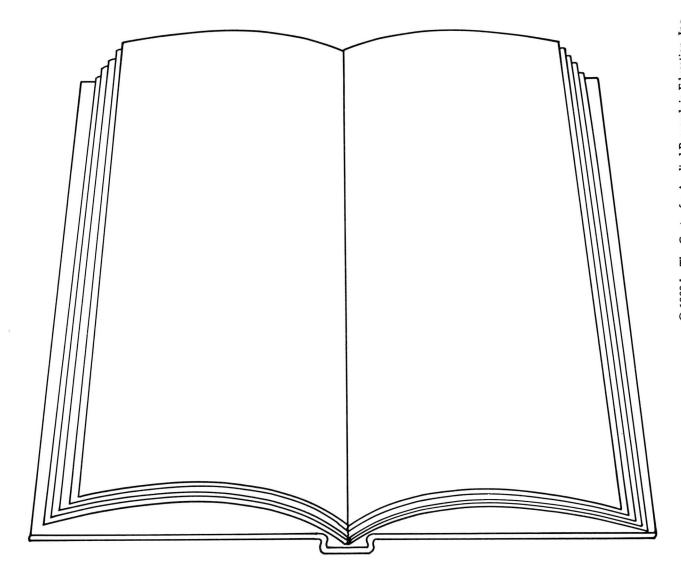
Name	
Period	Date

# LIVED HAPPILY EVER AFTER?

Directions: Fairy tales sometimes are considered too violent and are therefore criticized for being frightening to children. But maybe we enjoy them because we know everything will work out for the best in the end. Follow the course of events of a fairy tale, but stop when you reach the turning point. Think realistically, and then change the ending. Without the miracle rescue, what would be the natural conclusion?

Title of fairy tale:	

New conclusion:



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Name	@~ <del></del>
Period Date	
RAMBO AND THE 3 BEARS	
Directions: Fairy tales usually have standard heroes and villains doesn't fit in affect the plot? What if Mr. Spock, India appeared? Choose any character not originally in the standard heroes and villains doesn't fit in affect the plot? What if Mr. Spock, India appeared? Choose any character not originally in the standard heroes and villains doesn't fit in affect the plot? What if Mr. Spock, India appeared? Choose any character not originally in the standard heroes and villains doesn't fit in affect the plot? What if Mr. Spock, India appeared? Choose any character not originally in the standard heroes and villains doesn't fit in affect the plot? What if Mr. Spock, India appeared? Choose any character not originally in the standard heroes and villains doesn't fit in affect the plot?	na Jones, or James Bond suddenly story and rewrite it, accounting for
Title of Fairy Tale:	
New Character:	***************************************
Physical description:	
Abilities:	
Activities (work/recreation):	
Interests/concerns:	
Philosophy of life:	

Keeping in mind the information above, put your new version of the fairy tale on the back of this sheet.

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Name	$\sim$	9–12
Period Date		
		FAN,

Directions: Journalism and mythology have a lot in common. A newsworthy story must be important and interesting. The actions of the characters in myths are important because they affect everyone concerned, and the characters are interesting because of the amazing powers they display. Choose a myth you have read and rewrite it as a news story. Remember to include only the facts.

**STOP THE PRESSES!** 

Use the sections below as a guideline and rewrite the information on another sheet.

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	LIFES	TYLES (	OF THE	RICH A	ND FAM	IOUS
	Greek gods li a description illustrate the l	of the gods'	nt Olympus, v kingdom yo	while the No ou have read	rse gods call l about. Bas	ed Valhalla ho ed on this in
Home:						
Description	n:				<del></del>	
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# — Up Front —

### **GOOD GUYS FINISH FIRST**

In the reading of myths, you will notice that good is rewarded and evil is punished. To do this assignment, the class needs to have newspapers on hand. Students should find an example of a news article that tells how good won over evil and an example of a news article that shows how evil won over good. You will then lead a discussion about these articles.

### A GOD WITHOUT PITY

In mythology gods display emotions as do humans, but have more power to act on them. After reading a myth, brainstorm for a list of emotions displayed in the story and for the actions that resulted from them. Assuming these motivations no longer exist, how would the story change? If the god displayed different emotions, how would the story change?

# — To Be Continued —

### FOR THE RECORD

While reading, students often wish they had the chance to ask the gods why they acted in a certain way. Students are to write ten questions on worksheet 9-14 that they would ask if they had the opportunity to interview any of the gods. This will be turned into a role-playing situation. Using a round-robin technique, each student will play interviewer and interviewee. (See worksheet 9-15.) Use the following plan:

- 1. Number slips of paper (1 for each class member).
- 2. Students will select a number that will be known only to you.
- 3. Have #1 interview #2 with questions already prepared.
- 4. Have #2 interview #3, and so on.
- 5. Students should be given no advance notice as to sequence.

To aid in grading the project, give your students the following guidelines:

In addition to questions, give an introduction (relevant facts and information).

 $\overline{\phantom{a}}$ 

- 2. Follow-up with questions that are not on the list.
- 3. Use eye contact, an appropriate tone of voice, and enthusiasm.
- 4. Act professional in your speech, posture, and appearance.
- 5. Wrap up with a conclusion.

### WHO WAS THAT MASKED GOD?

Gods often appear in disguises. In this assignment, students will alter the appearance of a god or goddess. They can obtain a picture by photocopying a picture from a book or by drawing an original. If possible, obtain a copy of the coloring book "Color Me Greek" from The Perfection Form Company, 1000 North Second Avenue, Logan, Iowa 51546.

### **CAMPAIGN TRAIL**

In this assignment, students can become part of a campaign. Students should pretend an election is being held for "head god" and the candidates are Odin, Jupiter, and Zeus. The class must be divided into three groups with each group responsible for the campaign of one of the candidates. Students will design a campaign slogan, a poster, flyers, and a speech (which can be written or put on tape). While creating these items, each group should keep in mind the strengths and characteristics of their candidate. If more than one class is involved, you may have them exchange projects before holding the election.

### WORD OF MOUTH

Since folk tales were not originally written down, a demonstration of how they changed because of word-of-mouth may be helpful. The first day of the unit you will read a story to the class. Every day after that, have one student retell the story. On the last day you will reread the story and point out how it has changed. The following book has a wide selection of stories to use.

Treasury of American Folklore, edited by B. A. Botkin (New York: Outlet Book Co., 1984).

### POINT OF ORIGIN

Many words in use today have come from the Greek and Roman myths. Students will research the words on worksheet 9-16 to discover their derivations. This may involve library time, or perhaps a dictionary will suffice.

WORD

**ORIGIN** 

cereal from the Roman goddess Ceres, goddess of agriculture

gigantic from the Greek giants

herculean from the Greek hero, Hercules

hygiene from the goddess Hygeia, goddess of health

iridescent from Iris, goddess of the rainbow jovial from Jove, another name for Jupiter lunatic from Luna, Roman goddess of the moon

martial from Mars, god of war

museum from the Muses, goddesses of learning and the arts narcissism from Narcissus, beautiful youth of Greek mythology

who fell in love with own reflection

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Name		_
Period	Date	

# FOR THE RECORD

Directions: You will be given the chance to interview one of the gods you have read about. Don't ask for factual information, such as "Where are you from?" or "How old are you?" Dig for motivations for the god's actions. You and your classmates will actually conduct the interview, so think of interesting questions. Act professional. Consider eye contact, tone of voice, speech, posture, appearance, and enthusiasm. Be sure to include an introduction, which gives the audience necessary background information on your subject, and a conclusion which wraps up the interview. Don't be afraid to follow up answers, even if it means deviating from your planned questions.

Q U E S T I O N	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9					
Con	clusion:			et .		

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Student's Name	Period	Date		
CATEGORY	RATING (E/VG/G/A/F/	P) COMI	MENTS	SCORE (1–10)
1. INTRODUCTION				
2. EYE CONTACT				
3. TONE OF VOICE				
4. SPEECH				
5. POSTURE				
6. APPEARANCE				
7. ENTHUSIASM				
8. QUESTIONS				
9. FOLLOW UP				
10. CONCLUSION				
	95–100) VG = Very G 0–85) F = Fair (75-	, ,		
		TOTA	L GRADE	

INTERVIEW EVALUATION SHEET

## Suggestions:

- 1. The introduction should be addressed to the audience and contain only necessary factual information about the subject.
- 2. Students may use paper or index cards to refer to, but the majority of the time should be spent looking directly at the subject.
- 3. The student's voice should be clear, confident, loud enough for all to hear, and animated.
- 4. The student should enunciate clearly, use complete sentences, and avoid slang.
- 5. Interviewer should sit facing the subject and in an erect, comfortable position.
- 6. Dress should be neat and subdued. No excessive hair, make up, jewelry or add-ons.
- 7. Interviewer should appear alert, interested, and involved.
- 8. Questions should provoke thought and require answers of some depth.
- 9. The interviewer should require elaboration from the subject when possible.
- 10. The conclusion is addressed to the subject and wraps up the conversation.

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Name	
Period	Date

# **POINT OF ORIGIN**

Directions: Many words used today come from Greek and Roman myths. Research the original derivations of the words listed below.

1.	CEREAL -	
	<u> </u>	_

- 2. GIGANTIC \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. <u>HERCULEAN</u> \_\_\_\_\_\_
- 4. <u>HYGIENE</u> \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. <u>IRIDESCENT</u> \_\_\_\_\_\_
- 6. JOVIAL \_\_\_\_\_
- 7. <u>LUNATIC</u> \_\_\_\_\_
- 8. <u>MARTIAL</u> \_\_\_\_\_
- 9. MUSEUM \_\_\_\_\_
- 10. <u>NARCISSISM</u> \_\_\_\_\_



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# --- Recommended Book List -

### For Grades 7 and 8

The Adventures of Ulysses, by Bernard Evslin Aesop's Fables, by Aesop The Brothers Grimm, by A. Rackham Legends of the North, by Olivia E. Coolidge

### For Grades 9 and 10

Greek Myths, by Olivia E. Coolidge Indian Sleep-man Tales, by Bernice G. Anderson The Once and Future King, by T. H. White

### For Grades 11 and 12

The Age of Fable, by Thomas Bullfinch Gods, Heroes and Men of Ancient Greece, by H. D. Rouse Mythology, by Edith Hamilton

# --- Video List ----

TITLE	AUTHOR	PRODUCED	TIME
Androcles and the Lion	*	1952	98:00
Arabian Adventures	*	1979	98:00
Camelot	*	1967	178:00
Clash of the Titans	*	1981	118:00
Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court	M. Twain	1949	107:00
Dragonslayer	*	1981	108:00
<sup>+</sup> Excalibur	*	1981	136:00
<sup>†</sup> Faerie Tale Theatre			60:00
Golden Voyage of Sinbad	*	1974	105:00
Gulliver's Travels	J. Swift	1939	74:00

<sup>\*</sup>Numerous single works and anthologies available.

<sup>+ &</sup>quot;R" rated film

<sup>†</sup> Faerie Tale Theatre is aired on the Showtime cable network. Each episode of the series is an hour in length and various titles are available from CBS/Fox on videocassette.

TITLE	AUTHOR	PRODUCED	TIME
Hans Christian Anderson	*	1952	105:00
Hercules	*	1959	107:00
Jason and the Arogonauts	*	1963	104:00
Knights of the Roundtable	*	1953	115:00
Seventh Voyage of Sinbad	*	1958	87:00
Sinbad and the Eye of	*	1077	110.00
the Tiger	· ·	1977	113:00
Sword and the Sorcerer	*	1982	100:00
Sword of Ali Baba	*	1965	81:00
Ulysses	*	1955	104:00
Wonderful World of the			
Brothers Grimm	*	1962	129:00
Wonders of Aladdin	*	1961	93:00

<sup>\*</sup>Numerous single works and anthologies available,

•

# —— Chapter 10 ——

# SCIENCE FICTION FANTASY HORROR

Be Seated • 200

My Buddy

Fright Night

Separate Ways

Whatchamacallit?

See No Evil

Wings of Tomorrow

Is There a Doctor in the House?

Magical Mystery Tour

The New Kid in Town

Will the Sun Rise Tomorrow?

Method to Your Madness

Up Front • 214

Can't Let You Go

If All Else Fails, Read the Directions

To Be Continued • 214

Are You Game?

**Eternally Yours** 

When I Was Young . . .

Monster Mash

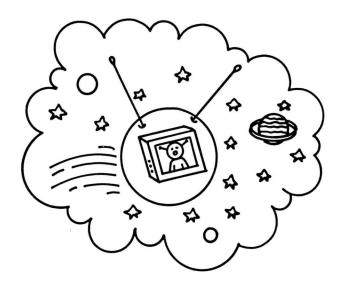
Taking It to the Streets

Simon Says

Puzzled?

Recommended Book List • 221

Video List • 221



## —— Be Seated ——

#### 10-1. MY BUDDY

Whether we realize it or not, there are certain qualities we look for in choosing friends. Students will first decide what traits they most value. They must then choose a character from the novel who comes closest to these standards. They will then explain how three of these qualities were exhibited in the book.

#### 10-2. FRIGHT NIGHT

We read thrilling novels to be frightened, but this feeling can be created in two totally different ways. Some stories are considered to be "terror" because they deal with the fear of something real, such as mass murder. "Horror" is the fear of something that has no base in reality, such as a vampire. Most books that fall into this genre have elements of both. Each student will list and categorize all elements as either terror or horror. To conclude the exercise, he/she will decide which of the categories dominated the book.

#### 10-3. SEPARATE WAYS

Science fiction means different things to different people. Some are fascinated by the gadgets and machines, while others prefer to ponder the complex issues raised. In one column students will list everything in the novel that is scientific, and in the other, elements that are fictional. Students will decide which the author relied on more and which they preferred.

#### 10-4. WHATCHAMACALLIT?

Part of the lure of science-fiction literature is the many bizarre devices and creatures encountered. Encourage the students to be as imaginative as possible in visualizing a creature or device in the story or to create a new one. Have them invent a name, draw a picture of it, and give its origin or function.

#### 10-5. SEE NO EVIL

In everyday life we are restricted in how we act because we will have to pay the consequences, but in fantasy novels characters act freely because of their unique powers. Students will imagine that they are invisible for one day and must explain what they would do and why. Be aware that students often use this exercise as an opportunity to vent frustrations at someone or something; therefore, it is recom-

mended that you remind them it is a hypothetical situation and follow up the project with a class discussion of the moral ramifications of the students' proposed actions.

#### 10-6. WINGS OF TOMORROW

If the novel deals with the concept of immortality, have the class stretch their imagination by answering this question. "If you could live forever, who or what would you miss most a century from now, and why?" Remind the students that they will be extremely old by then and should take this into consideration when answering the question.

#### 10-7. IS THERE A DOCTOR IN THE HOUSE?

In the classic novel *Frankenstein*, the scientist believes he is benefiting mankind by searching for the secret of life. In this exercise, your class will have the chance to make their contribution. Propose the following situation: You are a doctor/scientist of the future. Given the talent and opportunity, what discovery would you most want to make and why? The motivation for students' efforts can be a personal experience or the desire to assist the world community.

#### 10-8. MAGICAL MYSTERY TOUR

In many fantasy novels, magic is used for evil. Students will choose five magical elements from the story that were used to do harm and will now make them tools for good. They will explain what the result of each of these changes would be.

#### 10-9. THE NEW KID IN TOWN

The year is 2150. You and your class are on a field trip to Venus. Suddenly, the ship goes off course and you are forced to make an emergency landing on the planet named in the story. In a composition, the students will imagine how their lives would be changed if they were suddenly transported to this other world. They will have to deal with the following factors: physical adjustments, language barriers, hostile or friendly residents, and food/shelter.

#### 10-10. WILL THE SUN RISE TOMORROW?

Many novels deal with a world that is Utopian or a world seen after Armageddon. Each student will make a visual representation of his/her own Utopia or Armageddon, including a description. You have the option to assign a diorama based on the worksheet illustration.

#### 10-11. METHOD TO YOUR MADNESS

An alien has come to Earth with a list of items that are representative of everyday existence on Earth. These items are to be purchased and taken back to be placed in an intergalactic museum. Assuming the alien has only a basic understanding of the English language, what standard expressions would it use in place of our modern vocabulary? The worksheet contains 10 nouns that the student will translate into longer, more descriptive phrases. An example follows: bridge = road over water.

Name 10-1
Period Date
MY BUDDY
Directions: Whether we realize it or not, there are certain qualities we look for when choosing friends. Decide what traits you value most, then choose a character from the story who comes closest to meeting these standards. Using examples from the novel, show how three of these characteristics were shown by the person you have chosen.
General qualities:
The character I would most like as a friend is
Examples:
1
2
*
3

Mar	me 10–2
	riod Date
	FRIGHT NIGHT  rections: "Terror" novels deal with your fear of something that could really happen, while a "horror" story involves things that do not exist, such as vampires.  Most stories that frighten us contain elements of both. Categorize the ideas/activities in the book you are reading as either terror or horror, and decide which is more dominant.
1	Plot synopsis:
1.	Tiot synopsis.
1	
2.	The plot was terror / horror (circle one) because
3.	Setting (time / place):
4.	The setting was terror / horror (circle one) because
_	
5.	Identify main characters:
	·
_	
6.	The characters were terror / horror (circle one) because

7. Overall, I would categorize this book as terror / horror (circle one) because

_	Name
	Period Date
	SEPARATE WAYS
	Directions: Science fiction means different things to each of us. Some like the gadgets and machines, while others are more interested in debating the complex hypothetical issues raised. In the first column, list everything scientific in the novel. In the second column, list the elements that are fictional. Decide which the author used more often and which you like best.
7	SCIENTIFIC CONCEPTS/DEVICES FICTIONAL CREATIONS
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or Appli	
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$\rightarrow$	The outhor relied more on arising of finites (sinds and because)
© 1989 b	The author relied more on science / fiction (circle one) because
<b>©</b>	
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ē.	I prefer science / fiction (circle one) because
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	WHATCHA	MACALLIT?	/
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Directions:	For some people, the best part of	science fiction is the many bizarre devic	es and
	creatures encountered. Imagine that	t you are the illustrator for the novel being	g read.
	Either way, include a name, picture,	itures described. If you prefer, invent a ne and origin/function.	W one.
	-		
Name of d	levice/creature:		
Brief descr	ription:		
Place of or	rigin or function:		
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Name	
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## **SEE NO EVIL**

Directions: In everyday life, what we do and how we treat others is sometimes determined by the fact that we will be held responsible for our actions rather than by whether the actions are right or wrong. In fantasy stories, characters don't always have to make moral decisions because of their unique abilities. They act as they choose no matter what the consequences. In this exercise, imagine you are invisible for one day. What would you do and why?

ACTIVITIES	REASON WHY

Look over your list and determine if there is anything you actually would not or could not do in real life. On the back of this sheet give at least three reasons why not.

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10-6

Name		
Period	Date	



WINGS OF TOMORROW

Directions: Immortality is a popular science-fiction topic. If you could live forever, who or what would you miss most a century from now, and why? Remember, you will be very old by that time. Take that into consideration before answering.

One hundred years from now I would most miss	
because	
Jeeuwe	
*	
The thing I'd like best about being immortal is	
The timig 14 like best about being minortal is	,
Illustrate below what you think you will look like:	

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Name	
Period	Date

I think the greatest contribution I could make would be to

# IS THERE A DOCTOR IN THE HOUSE?

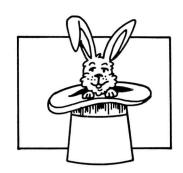
Directions: In the classic novel, Frankenstein, the scientist believes he is serving mankind by searching for the secret of life. This is a chance to make your contribution. Imagine you are a doctor/scientist of the future. Given the talent and opportunity, what discovery would you most want to make and why? Your decision can be based on a personal experience or for the purpose of assisting the world community.

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# **MAGICAL MYSTERY TOUR**

Directions: In many fantasy novels, magic is used for evil purposes. Choose five magical elements that did harm and make them instead tools for good. Explain the results of using the elements for good.

Magical elements:
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Harm done:
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Changes and the results:
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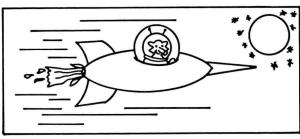
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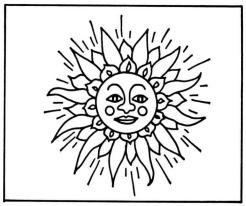
# THE NEW KID IN TOWN

Directions: The year is 2150. You and your class are on a field trip to Venus, when suddenly the ship goes off course and you are forced to make an emergency landing on the planet named in the story. What now? You are allowed to send one interplanetary telegram detailing your current status.

То:		
I am currently stranded on		
The physical environment is differen		
The residents of this planet are		endly) . We know
this because they		<del></del>
The people here speak	so v	we have had to use an interpreter
The first meal we had consisted of		
which is similar to what we call		
You should see the clothes. Right no	w I'm wearing a	
It's hard to describe their houses. Th	ney are	
Well, that's all I have time to tell you	1. Hope to be home soon	•
		(name)
	****	



Name		10-10
Period Date	\ \\\.\.\.\.\.\	



# WILL THE SUN RISE TOMORROW?

Directions: Many science fiction novels see the future as either Utopia or Armageddon. Utopia is a perfect society, while Armageddon represents the end of the world. In the space below, illustrate what you think this planet will look like someday.

Specific location:		 	_ Date: _	
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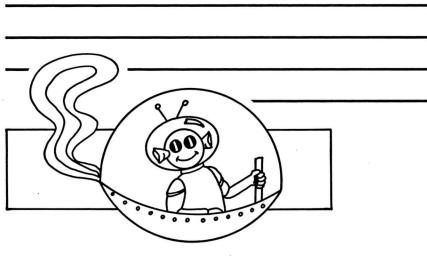
## **METHOD TO YOUR MADNESS**

Directions: An alien has come to Earth with a list of items that represent our everyday existence. These will be purchased and taken back to be placed in an intergalactic museum. If the alien had only a basic understanding of the English language what expressions would it use? Change the ten words below into longer, more descriptive phrases.

Example: bridge would become road over water

,	ORIGINAL	REVISED
1.	DOOR	
2.	CAR	
3.	CHAIR	
4.	TELEVISION	
5.	TELEPHONE	
6.	RECORD PLAYER	
7.	LIGHT	
8.	REFRIGERATOR	
9.	SINK	
10.	BED	
Reverse equivale		ve alien expressions and let a classmate try to guess the English





# — Up Front —

#### **CAN'T LET YOU GO**

Have volunteers ad-lib the following situation for five minutes: A hostile alien has landed on Earth and plans to destroy the planet. How would you talk the alien out of such a drastic act? What reasons would you give that show we deserve to survive?

#### IF ALL ELSE FAILS, READ THE DIRECTIONS

Facing the prospect of visitors from another planet, we usually only think of our point of view. In this exercise, however, students will see things through the eyes of aliens. If creatures from another planet came to Earth and were faced with objects they had never seen before, what difficulties would they encounter? How would they use the objects? Have volunteers demonstrate the use of items found in your classroom. Some examples are the following: chalk, paper, a pencil sharpener, a chair, a board eraser, a chalkboard, a desk, a window, a pen, and a door.

## — To Be Continued —

#### **ARE YOU GAME?**

A good way to get the class involved in the more mundane aspects of literature is to have a contest based on the following: story, vocabulary, and spelling. Divide the class in half (boys against girls is a favorite). Each group will make up 10 questions based on actions in the novel, and will find 10 vocabulary words and 10 spelling words (See worksheet 10-12). Each group will take a turn answering a question about the story, defining a vocabulary word, or spelling a word correctly. Point totals should be kept and a prize for the winning team awarded.

#### **ETERNALLY YOURS**

Due to advances in special-effects technology, modern horror films (and books, which are often written with an eye on movie rights) frequently rely more on graphic visual effects than on intelligent story lines. The lure of classic horror fiction is that the characters and plots require imaginative thought on the part of the reader, and therefore are eternally fascinating. After reading a classic horror novel, students will (a) read a modern horror novel, or (b) view a modern film/television horror story. Next they will complete worksheet 10-13—which includes an analysis of the plots, characters, and themes of the classic and modern stories, and then make a comparison of the two. (See worksheet 10-13 for details.)

In this activity, emphasize that classic science-fiction/horror novels are timeless because thay contain characters and ideas we can relate to, no matter how bizarre they first seem.

#### WHEN I WAS YOUNG . . .

A project that involves everyone is to make a class time capsule. Each student will make an individual time capsule using personal items. These time capsules will be presented and explained to the class, noting the significance of each item. Every class member will select an item from his/her own time capsule to be donated to the class project. Together, they will draft a letter describing the contents to whomever opens the capsule. If appropriate, seal the box and bury it at a chosen site.

#### **MONSTER MASH**

The situations in science fiction often seem distant and far-removed from our own experience, and yet this planet abounds with mysteries that have not been solved. Each student will research a modern-day phenomenon, such as Bigfoot, the Loch Ness Monster, the Bermuda Triangle, Stonehenge, the pyramids, or Easter Island. Students should include the following in their reports: a brief description of the subject; known historical facts; any physical proof of the phenomenon's existence; and a personal opinion. If you wish, you may want to have a class discussion on the plausibility of the subject's existence.

#### TAKING IT TO THE STREETS

Explaining the format you prefer, have each student create the front page of a newspaper that is the hometown publication of your story's location. It should include the following elements: flag (title), stories (pertaining to book), headlines, pictures/illustrations, captions, index, ear (paper's slogan), price, and date.

#### SIMON SAYS

We take language and everyday activities for granted, assuming everyone understands our thoughts and actions. What if we were faced with the task of teaching an alien simple yet necessary tasks in order for it to function in this society? First, have two volunteers role play the parts of teacher (human) and student (alien). One will be responsible for giving a precise set of directions that the other will follow. It is important that the task be known only to the "teacher." The "student" is to follow the instructions without added thought or interpretation. When necessary, stop them and insist they be more detailed. Following is an example: If someone says simply, "Open the door," you could elaborate by saying, "Extend arm forward, open hand, grip door knob, turn wrist and pull." After this demonstration, the class will see how important it is to be precise, which will aid them in completing the work-

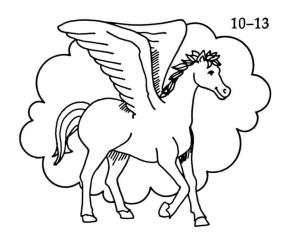
sheet. Each student is to choose three normal activities and write precise directions for each. (See worksheet 10-14.) Have each student demonstrate one of their chosen activities as described earlier.

#### **PUZZLED?**

Taking a vocabulary lesson and turning it into a game for the mind allows you to be the only one who knows learning is taking place. Brainstorm for a list of vocabulary from the story. Each student will then create a crossword puzzle using any 20 words (10 across, 10 down). The clues must be subtle and require some thought, rather than being direct questions. Graph paper is not necessary, but it makes the puzzle neater and easier to read. When puzzles are complete, they should be exchanged. Students should include a separate answer key.

Name			10-12
Period	Date		
,	ARE YOU GAME?		
Directions:	Science fiction is fun to read, but how you learn? This is your chance to find ten questions based on events in the list ten new vocabulary words and te words. Based on this information, you classmates will compete in groups to remembered the most. Good luck!	out. Write novel and n spelling ı and your	
QUESTIO	<u>NS</u>		
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			
VOCABUI	LARY		
		6	
2			
		10	
SPELLING	_		
		9	
5		10	

Name	
Period	Date



## **ETERNALLY YOURS**

Directions: Classic science-fiction/horror novels are timeless because they contain characters and concepts we can relate to, no matter how bizarre they first seem. Modern books/films of this type rely more on graphic violence than on interesting plots and characters. You will read a classic novel and then either read or watch a modern story and compare the two.

1.	Classic novel title: Author:
2.	Plot synopsis:
3.	Brief biography of the main character:
4.	Identify and explain main theme:
_	Currented on quantity violance? Cive on example
Э.	Suggested or graphic violence? Give an example.
6.	Do you identify with the main character? Why or why not?
0.	
7.	Do you like the main character? Why or why not?
8.	Why is this novel a "classic"?

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9.	Modern novel/film title:	Author:
10.	Plot synopsis:	
11.	Brief biography of main character:	
12	Identify and explain main theme:	
12.	identify and explain main theme.	
12	Suggested or graphic violence? Give an example.	
13.	Suggested of graphic violence: Give an example.	
1.	Description of the major throughout 2 Miles on other mat 2	
14.	Do you identify with the main character? Why or why not?	
4-	D 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12	
15.	Do you like the main character? Why or why not?	
16.	. Do you think this novel/film will become a classic? Why or why n	ot?
17.	. Did the classic or the modern story have a better plot? Explain. —	
18.	. Which had a more interesting main character? Explain	
19.	. Which had a more important theme? Explain	
20.	. Overall, which did you enjoy more? Why?	

Period	Date
	SIMON SAYS
Directions:	We take language and everyday activities for granted by assuming everyone understands our thoughts and actions. What if you had to teach an alien how to do simple yet necessary tasks in order for it to function in this society? Choose three activities and write out a specific set of instructions for each. Be as detailed as possible.
ACTIVIT	Y 1:
INSTRUC	TIONS:
ACTIVIT	Y 2:
INSTRUC	TIONS:
ACTIVIT	Y 3:
	CTIONS:

Name -

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# --- Recommended Book List -

#### For Grades 7 and 8

Chronicles of Narnia, series by C. S. Lewis Lord of the Rings, trilogy by J. R. R. Tolkien The Time Machine, by H. G. Wells

#### For Grades 9 and 10

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland, by Lewis Carroll Childhood's End, by Arthur C. Clarke Lathe of Heaven, by Ursula LeGuin 1984, by George Orwell

#### For Grades 11 and 12

The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy, by Douglas Adams Planet of the Apes, by Pierre Boulle Rosemary's Baby, by Ira Levin

## --- Video List ---

TITLE	AUTHOR	PRODUCED	TIME
Alice's Adventures in			
Wonderland	L. Carroll	1933	<i>77</i> :00
<sup>+</sup> Alien	A. D. Foster	1979	124:00
<sup>+</sup> Amityville Horror	J. Anson	1979	117:00
Andromeda Strain	M. Crichton	1971	137:00
Animal Farm	G. Orwell	1955	<b>7</b> 5:00
Brave New World	A. Huxley	1980	150:00
Close Encounters of the			
Third Kind	S. Spielberg	1977	135:00
Coma	R. Cook	1978	113:00
<sup>+</sup> Cujo	S. King	1983	97:00
<sup>+</sup> Dead Zone	S. King	1983	102:00

<sup>+ &</sup>quot;R" rated film

TITLE	AUTHOR	PRODUCED	TIME
Death Takes a Holiday	A. Cassella	1934	78:00
Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde	R. L. Stevenson	1932	82:00
Dracula	B. Stoker	1931	84:00
Dune	F. Herbert	1984	145:00
<sup>+</sup> Exorcist	W. P. Blatty	1973	121:00
Fahrenheit 451	R. Bradbury	1966	112:00
Fantastic Voyage	I. Asimov	1966	100:00
<sup>+</sup> Firestarter	S. King	1984	116:00
Flowers for Algernon			
(Charly)	D. Keyes	1968	106:00
Frankenstein	M. Shelley	1931	71:00
Heaven Can Wait	L. Fleischer	1978	100:00
*Hitchhiker's Guide to	D 41	1000	100.00
the Galaxy	D. Adams	1982	192:00
Illustrated Man	R. Bradbury	1969	103:00
Invisible Man	H. G. Wells	1933	80:00
Island of Lost Souls	H. G. Wells	1933	70:00
Lathe of Heaven	U. LeGuin	1980	105:00
Lion, Witch and the Wardrobe	C. S. Lewis	1979	95:00
Little Prince	A. St. Exupery	1974	88:00
Lord of the Rings	J. R. R. Tolkien	1978	133:00
Lost Horizon	J. Hilton	1937	117:00
*Martian Chronicles	R. Bradbury	1980	360:00
Mephisto Waltz	F. M. Stewart	1971	108:00
Mysterious Stranger	M. Twain	1982	90:00
Neverending Story	M. Ende	1984	94:00
1984	G. Orwell	1955	91:00
Omen	D. Seltzer	1976	111:00
Phantom of the Opera	G. Leroux	1943	92:00
Picture of Dorian Gray	O. Wilde	1945	110:00
Planet of the Apes	P. Boulle	1968	119:00

<sup>\*</sup>TV mini-series

<sup>+ &</sup>quot;R" rated film

TITLE	AUTHOR	PRODUCED	TIME
Rosemary's Baby	I. Levin	1968	117:00
*Salem's Lot	S. King	1979	200:00
<sup>+</sup> Shining	S. King	1980	146:00
Something Wicked this			
Way Comes	R. Bradbury	1983	94:00
Stepford Wives	I. Levin	1975	110:00
Time Machine	H. G. Wells	1960	103:00
20,000 Leagues Under the Sea	J. Verne	1954	122:00
2001: A Space Odyssey	A. C. Clarke	1968	140:00
2010: Odyssey Two	A. C. Clarke	1984	157:00
War of the Worlds	H. G. Wells	1953	85:00
Wizard of Oz	L. F. Baum	1939	101:00

<sup>\*</sup>TV mini-series

<sup>+ &</sup>quot;R" rated film

# — Appendices —

# — TANGLED WIRES: UNRAVELING THE WORLD OF VIDEO —

- Appendix 1 COME TOGETHER (methods for organizing class work and television viewing)
- Appendix 2 WHAT YOU SEE IS NOT ALWAYS WHAT YOU GET (choosing the best adaptation and dealing with the differences between text and program)
- Appendix 3 BRAVE NEW WORLD (supplementary techniques to increase student interest)
- Appendix 4 WHERE OR WHEN (controlling the classroom environment to enhance the viewing experience)
- Appendix 5 HANDS ON (how and where to rent/purchase videotapes for classroom use)
- Appendix 6 TROUBLESHOOTING (technical problems that may be encountered during the viewing of a tape)

- Appendix 7 LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION! (a how-to guide for creating your own class video projects)
- Appendix 8 TELEVISION VIEWING LOG (an all-purpose worksheet to test class comprehension of and attention to TV viewing)
- Appendix 9 FILM FACTS (terms and activities to further integrate the reading and viewing experience)

# — Come Together —

It is essential to make television an integral part of the overall lesson. You must flow naturally from class work to viewing and back again. The only way to achieve this is to make the oral and written material as interesting and important as the students' anticipation of the television experience.

The first decision to be made is how to divide class time. There are three possibilities, all of which work:

- Class work first Notes, exercises, tests, and so on are followed by the film in
  its entirety over a period of several days. PRO: All necessary material is
  covered. CON: Boredom sets in. Students mark time waiting for the television experience.
- 2. Alternate days Notes are taken on the first day, television is viewed on the second day, written exercises are given on the third day, television is viewed on the fourth day, and an oral project is presented on the fifth day. PRO: This offers variety and maintains a higher interest level. CON: Availability of the television equipment must be arranged.
- 3. Half and half—The first part of the class period is spent teaching, with the television experience taking up the second half of class time. PRO: This maintains the highest level of interest. There is constant monitoring of comprehension. CON: It takes longer to get through relevant material.

Which of the three techniques you use depends on the material, class needs, and your personal preference. The one unalterable rule is *never* show the film first. Always be sure the material has been read. Don't accept promises that the students will learn better if they see the movie first. Doing that only retards their imagination and encourages them to believe that all they need to know can be gotten from the film. Reading becomes superfluous. Use whatever methods necessary to check their reading progress (comprehension quizzes, exercises such as those in other sections of this book, or question-and-answer sessions before each television viewing). Make sure tests include questions that can be answered only by reading the book.

#### HELPFUL HINT—BUDGETING PLAYBACK TIME

Many films are made with the expectation that they will be shown on commercial television one day. Therefore, they are designed to reach a climax every 15 minutes (whether justifiable in regard to the original work or not) to allow for commercial breaks. Keep this in mind when showing the program so that, when possible, you can have the end of the class period correspond to a natural break in the tape.

# --- What You See Is Not Always What You Get ----

Ideally, we would love to see the words of the novel/play being taught spring to life and jump from the pages of the text onto the television screen. Don't hold your breath! Very rarely will you find a completely faithful visual retelling of a story. Even classics are altered. Being prepared for this will save you grief in the long run.

Try to find an adaptation that is close to the written work. Variations from the text require explanation to avoid confusion. If you opt for a more interesting modern version, expect endless questions. The students will notice every change in character, setting, or plot details. Head them off at the pass by informing them in advance.

Once you are familiar with the written text, invest the time and preview the program, creating a general plot outline as you go along. Note character names and the order of the segments (additions, deletions, changes) as compared to the original book/play.

Rather than trying to answer all the inevitable questions, you may want to shift the burden to the students by asking them to keep a list of all the changes they observe and then discuss them all at once as a complete lesson. Maybe a class game would be an interesting follow-up. Divide the students into groups and have them challenge each other as to who was more observant.

The following is an example of inconsistencies you may encounter when comparing written and visual treatments of a story.

#### Spotlight on Dracula

The novel *Dracula* has never been out of print since its 1897 publication, yet despite countless reincarnations of the durable main character, there is no completely accurate film version of the book. The 1931 film starring Bela Lugosi is considered the definitive movie of the genre, but it is extremely dated and slow-moving in its visual style. The 1979 version is technically less accurate, but seems to hold the students' attention because of the updated approach to characterization (a weak, helpless female in the book becomes an aggressive, passionate woman in the film) and flashy special effects. What follows will give you an idea of what to look for:

- 1. *Physical Appearance*—In the book, Dracula is a middle-aged man with pointed ears and fangs. The film features a handsome man in his thirties.
- 2. *Relationships*—In the novel, Dr. Seward is a young suitor of one of the female characters. Van Helsing is a family friend. Their screen counterparts become fathers to the two heroines, thereby changing their motivations.

- 3. Additions—A graphic seduction by Dracula appears in the film.
- 4. *Deletions*—Several characters do not survive the move to the screen. Also, the first six chapters of the novel have been cut from the film version.
- 5. Characters—Names change for no apparent reason. Mina Murray (in the book) becomes Lucy Seward (in the film). Lucy Westenra (in the book) reappears as Mina Van Helsing (in the film).

As you can see, there are many factors to consider when choosing which film to use. Sometimes a made-for-television film or mini-series is more complete. Other times, you may want to sacrifice accuracy for palatability. Try to gauge the maturity of your class. If they have a short attention span, go for the high-interest adaptation. Should they have trouble dealing with inconsistencies, use a more traditional film.

# ---- Brave New World ----

A good addition to the standard literary topics (plot, setting, theme, conflict, characterization, structure, etc.) is the historical background of the work. Even though this may require a little research on your part, this supplement often sparks discussion and brings the fictional material into the students' real world. Any facts, no matter how trivial, add something to an ordinary lesson.

Starting the novel *Dracula* with the fact that the inspiration for the story was a 15th-century nobleman named "Vlad the Impaler," who lived in Romania and committed more horrific deeds than Dracula ever dreamed of, suddenly makes a difficult-to-accept idea such as vampirism not so unbelievable. This, followed by an explanation of science versus superstition in regard to the vampire legend, and guess what? The students are hooked!

Any pictures or books you can obtain help, too. Posters,  $8'' \times 10''$  glossy stills, anything you can find to pass around or hang in the classroom draws the students into the story.

Don't forget geography. If the novel/play is set anywhere or anytime other than that in which the students live, assume the worst. Get a map. Discuss the physical terrain of the area and customs of the time, such as methods of transportation and communication. Make the students "feel" the period and place they are exploring before they see it. Refer to or ask them to take note of differences between their day-to-day existence and that portrayed in the film.

## — Where Or When —

The environment in which a film is experienced can affect a student's comprehension of it. Think of how much less you enjoy a movie in a noisy theater. Here are a few suggestions for the physical layout of the classroom during television viewing:

- 1. Have no more than the normal number of students at one desk. Groups encourage excess chatter that becomes a major distraction.
- 2. Have students clear their desks of all but the notebook needed for the viewing assignment. This cuts down on the temptation of extracurricular activities, such as homework, newspaper/magazine reading, and note passing.
- 3. Having lights on or off is a personal decision. Keeping them off makes the picture-contrast better and easier to see, giving the viewing experience a more personal feeling. The students' eyes quickly adjust to taking notes in the darkened room. But if this environment is inappropriate, by all means, let there be light!

## — Hands On —

Video doesn't have to be prohibitively expensive. For under \$1,000, you can have an invaluable classroom tool that can be shared and enjoyed by the entire school for years to come. If there is any way possible, urge the powers that be to consider the purchase of a video system.

You will need:

· a television

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- a videocassette recorder
- blank or prerecorded videotapes

If you have access to a videocassette recorder, most of the films listed throughout the book are shown regularly on television. However, if you want to obtain a top-grade copy, you may prefer one of the following methods:

- 1. Rental—Check out your local video specialty store. Try to find the largest one for the widest selection of titles and prices. Most tapes can be rented for as little as \$2 to \$5 for one to three days. However, be prepared to hand over the full price of the tape, which can be \$30 or more, as security until the tape is returned, at which time the money is refunded. Usually a store-membership deal is available that makes the security fee unnecessary and lessens the cost of each rental. Sometimes schools can obtain memberships that list several teachers' names.
- 2. *Purchase*—You can either purchase tapes directly or through the mail.
  - a. *Direct*—Videocassettes can be bought almost anywhere from a high-tech video outlet to the nearest grocery store.
  - b. Mail—The following list is of companies that offer videocassettes in which you may be interested. Cost per tape runs \$15 and up. Shop around, write for catalogs, and compare prices. Beware of clubs offering a lot for very little. Read the fine print before signing up or you may find yourself obligated to buy several tapes over the course of a year, which can become a very expensive proposition.

CBS/Fox Video 1211 Sixth Avenue New York, NY 10036

Embassy House Entertainment 1901 Avenue of the Stars Los Angeles, CA 90067 Playhouse Video 1930 Century Park West Los Angeles, CA 90067

RCA/Columbia Pictures Home Video 2901 West Alameda Avenue Burbank, CA 91505

Family Home Entertainment 7920 Alabama Avenue Canoga Park, CA 91304-4991

MGM/UA Home Video 1350 Sixth Avenue New York, NY 10019

Paramount Home Video 5555 Melrose Avenue Los Angeles, CA 90038-3197 Vestron

1011 High Ridge Road, P. O. Box 4000

Stamford, CT 06907

Walt Disney Home Video 500 South Buena Vista Street Burbank, CA 90064

Warner Home Video 4000 Warner Boulevard Burbank, CA 91522

There are too many different models of videocassette recorders with countless features on the market to recommend specific names. If you are seriously considering the purchase of a video system, we suggest the following:

- 1. Buy a consumer guide and know in advance what each unit does and what you want before going to the store.
- 2. Obtain a copy of either *Video* or *Video Review* magazine. These contain invaluable information on general and specific video techniques and problems. They also list manufacturers' equipment and prices available throughout the country.

Keep in mind the videocassette recorders come in two formats: BETA and VHS. This refers to the size of the cassette box and the way the tape moves through the machine. The pros and cons of both systems are numerous. Be advised: tapes are not interchangeable in different format machines. Once you select one, for example, VHS, you cannot play a BETA tape in it. But any VHS tape can be played in any VHS machine and any BETA tape can be played in any BETA machine.

#### HELPFUL HINT—STARTING A TAPE LIBRARY

Start a school videotape library listing all currently owned programs. When not in use, keep tapes rewound to prevent damage, and never try to play a tape that was stored in excessive heat or cold. Wait for the tape to adjust to room temperature before using it.

# — Troubleshooting —

You've spent hours putting together a spectacular literature unit ready to be enhanced by the television viewing experience. You turn on the TV set and nothing happens. Now what? No one around knows any more than you do about video and time's wasting away. Don't panic. Some of the following situations may help solve your problems:

- The TV and VCR are both plugged in, you press "play," but get no picture (black or snow) or sound. Solution: Make sure the TV and VCR are connected to each other. There must be a cable running from the back of the VCR (output) to the back of the TV (input).
- You hear sound, but the screen is black. Solution: Check the brightness control on the TV.
- Strange lines shoot across the screen while playing the tape. Solution: Adjust the tracking control on the VCR—or—use a video head cleaner. Both wet and dry systems are fine.
- You are getting a distorted picture. Solution: Make sure the TV set is on channel 3 (or channel 4 if applicable in your area) and the back of the VCR is set to the same—or—make sure the TV/VCR switch is on VCR.

Be sure to keep all booklets that come with your VCR machine. These also list solutions to other problems that may occur.

# Appendix 7

# —— Lights, Camera, Action! ——

If a video camera is available and you feel you have the patience and energy to coordinate a long-term project, have your class create its own video. Such direct involvement increases the interest level of students and gives them an awareness of the difficulty of film/TV production. They learn organization skills and how to work with each other.

- Divide the class into groups of four or five. Anything larger becomes unmanageable. Choose the groupings yourself, mixing abilities and personalities.
   Allowing cliques is asking for trouble.
- 2. Draw up a production schedule with specific dates and goals. Be realistic and allow leeway for unexpected problems (absence, not being prepared). Emphasize to the students that it is their responsibility to be present and prepared when it is their group's turn. Check each group's progress along the way.
- 3. Set aside class time to help each group solidify its ideas. Will the approach be realistic or abstract? Will students use passages from the work read or write their own versions? The more work left to them, the more structured the setup must be.

- 4. Decide whether the majority of the project will be done in class or for homework. A little of both usually works best. Either way, stress that work must be equally shared. No free rides are allowed. Grade both individual input and group results.
- 5. The setup of your school will determine the complexity of the productions. Use a large room such as the gym, auditorium, or cafeteria if possible. That way, all the groups will have room to work on their projects simultaneously. Everyone will have something to do whether it be discussion, rehearsal, or actual videotaping. If you are restricted to your classroom, leave time at the end of each period (about 5–10 minutes) for cleanup. Assign a student to remind you to avoid leaving your room a shambles and to dismiss students on time so they don't arrive late for their next class.
- 6. Consider these production elements:
  - a. Director (regulates action and camera positions)
  - b. Talent (actors must learn their lines)
  - c. Audio (music and sound effects)
  - d. Camera (knows how to work it properly)
  - e. Sets/props (research and locate)

- f. Costume/makeup (professional supplies are the safest)
- g. Paperwork (scripts, cue cards)

The video can take on many different styles. The book/play will usually determine the best way to go. No matter which the students choose, have them watch professional examples to acquaint them with various styles.

- 1. Music video —A very popular choice, this can use either a modern song with lyrics that relate to the text or characters, or a popular song from the period of the story. The students can stick to one specific concept or use abstract visuals to convey the story.
- 2. Dramatic scene—The easiest way is to mount the original work, but if you feel the students can handle it, have them rewrite a key section of the story. Guide them in casting roles. Make sure their choices are appropriate. Don't force them to memorize long passages. Cue cards work better and take the pressure off the performers.
- 3. News show This project can be done in an updated way or as a period piece. Make the class aware of the five W's (who, what, where, when, why) to ensure sufficient content. Suggest the use of slides, pictures, and music. Research may be necessary if information is lacking in the text. On-air segments may include anchorperson, news and feature reports, weather, sports, entertainment, man-on-the-street interviews, and an announcer. If the students really feel ambitious, they can insert original commercials.

# Appendix 8

# —— Television Viewing Log ——

To maintain student attention and understanding of in-class viewing, use the "Video Log" worksheet. Each question tests a different element. The worksheet can be used either as a written assignment or as an oral exercise.

Questions 1–5: Require that students take notes of the exact titles and writers. They must also check the copyright page and end credits. The goal is better attention to detail.

Questions 6-8: Check students' familiarity with the text.

Question 9: Reinforces the students' listening skills.

Question 10: Requires students to use analytical/inferential skills.

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# Appendix 9

# — Film Facts —

The purpose of Appendix 9 is to acquaint you with the technical side of film. Included are crew positions, terms, and accompanying exercises. Each word is defined so that you may introduce these ideas to your students in the hope that the reading/viewing experience becomes more integrated. Students will develop an appreciation for actual film technique and thereby become more-aware viewers. The boxed exercises can be adapted to any film viewed and stress visual and aural awareness.

## **Crew Positions**

Actor/Actress. Gives life to the characters created by the writer. Must memorize dialogue and perform any necessary physical activities.

Art Director. Designs sets. Decides the overall and specific colors, patterns, and textures of a scene.

Choreographer. Creates all dance sequences. Sometimes also regulates physical movement in a scene, such as a sword fight.

Cinematographer. Operates the camera. Determines how light, color, depth, and texture come together for the finished look of a shot.

Composer. Adapts or writes all music for a film.

Costume Designer. Must plan and either obtain or make all clothing worn by principal and secondary performers.

Director. Plans and implements the overall concept and visual look of a film.

Editor. Takes the completed shots in their original form and puts them together in a coherent and meaningful sequence to create a finished film.

Lighting Director. Is responsible not only for calculating the correct amount of light needed for each shot, but also for creating mood.

*Producer.* Is responsible for hiring the director, budgeting, raising money, scheduling, and overseeing the film.

Screenwriter. Adapts a previously written work or writes an original script.

Sound Engineer. Creates, records, and mixes all sound.

### **Terms**

Angle. The position of the camera in relation to the subject. A high angle is above eye level and creates a sense of weakness, fear, or helplessness. A low angle is below eye level, and emphasizes power, strength, and importance.

Before viewing the film, have the class list all significant characters from the reading. Let students decide which are active and dominant and which are passive victims. As they watch the movie, have students take note of how the characters are perceived by the director. Did the director use high or low angles to denote characterization? Ask students to give specific examples of their observations.

Close-Up. A shot in which a person's head or a small object fills the screen.

Have the students note examples in the text read of times when the author described specific actions, behavior, or physical details in the narrative. While viewing the film, students are to try to find similar visual treatments. In addition, students can describe important details that were left out of the film and explain why they think this was significant.

Continuity. Matching action and visual details from one shot to the next. Also involves the technical accuracy of the story.

It is the student's responsibility to note any inconsistencies or blatant errors in the film version of what he/she has read. Does the author make a point of some article of clothing being red and in the film it is blue? Does a character enter a room wearing a pair of gloves, then moments later appear barehanded with no explanation and then wear gloves again at the end of the scene? Is a concept established then ignored or changed for no apparently significant reason? For example, in the novel *Dracula*, an important premise is that a vampire cannot cast a reflection because it has no soul; yet in the 1979 film, the reflection of a vampire is clearly seen in a pool of water. An inconsistency like this can lead to a lively debate! This exercise can give you a good idea of the students' reading retention abilities and observation skills.

Cut. The abrupt change from one image to another. Standard transition.

See "Dissolve."

Depth of Field. The distance between various actions within a scene. Foreground is closest to the audience. Middleground is the center of the shot. Background is farthest from the viewer.

Because books are not visual, depth of field is strictly a film concept. However, through the use of dialogue and described action, the author can convey a sense of depth where many things are taking place at once. Before viewing the film, have the students draw a floor plan for a scene of their or your choice. A floor plan is similar to a blueprint. It is a simple rendering of a scene showing placement of objects and people. Stick figures will suffice. The object of this exercise is to have the students visualize where and how the characters are interrelating. After the students have viewed the same scene in the film, have them draw a second floor plan indicative of what was observed. Discuss how it compared to or differed from their visualization.

*Dissolve.* A slow transition from one shot to another in which there is a split-second visual overlap. Used to indicate change of time or location.

The techniques of cutting and dissolving can be combined into one exercise. Choose transition points in the text, such as between important chapters or scenes. Before the class views the film, explain the difference between a cut and a dissolve (perhaps even watching a few minutes of a soap opera and discussing it would be helpful). Have students decide which technique would be used at what point and why. After seeing the film, they should explain why they think the director/editor used what he or she did where, and if it was faithful to the author's original intent.

Dub. To add sound (dialogue, music, sound effects) after the film is photographed.

Using the narrative, students should list all sounds described by the author in a chosen passage. When viewing the same scene in the film, they are to listen carefully and write down all sounds created for the film. Were dialogue, music, and sound effects added, removed, or changed?

Editing. The planned sequence of shots.

First discuss with the class the structure of the story read. As the students view the film, they must write a scene-by-scene synopsis and then compare this to the novel/play. Was the order of any passages switched or were they eliminated altogether? Were scenes added that do not appear in the text? Students should explain why these changes might have been made and if they improved the story.

Establishing Shot. Any shot that defines the location or setting.

Have the students note the passages in the text that involve description of setting. As they watch the film, have them count silently to themselves and try to approximate how much screen time was given to establishing the setting. If you prefer, this can be done as a group activity. Use a stopwatch and time a student reading a descriptive passage aloud and then time the same part of the film.

Fast Motion. A film sequence shot at a slower speed and then projected at a normal rate to cause an effect of acceleration. Usually used for comedy.

See "Slow Motion."

Flashback/Forward. A shot, sequence, or series of scenes that indicates future or past actions.

If a flashback/forward is utilized in the film, have the students write a synopsis leaving these scenes out. Does the story still make sense or are there too many unanswered questions? Also, have students note if the director felt the need to use this technique in order to convey information the author gave by way of narration. If so, was the purpose to save time? Did the use of flashback/forward enhance the action? If you have class time to spare, you may want to illustrate the difference between the use of flashback/forward and the straightforward telling of a story by showing students two different versions of *The Godfather*. As shown in theaters, *The Godfather* and *The Godfather II* skipped back and forth in time. However, when they were broadcast together on commercial television, each scene was edited in chronological order, making it a very different viewing experience.

*Foreshadowing*. Giving special visual attention to an object, idea, or action so that the viewer will take note of it for future reference.

Students often find foreshadowing a difficult concept to grasp, because they have trouble projecting future events of the plot. Try this. Show a film that you know contains hints of action to come. When the class has witnessed an example of foreshadowing, stop the film and point it out. Before continuing, have each student write down his or her guess as to what significance this event will have. Do this several times until the majority of the class deduces the correct sequence of events. Have a follow-up discussion as to whether they prefer having this prior knowledge or whether they would prefer to be surprised, and why.

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Freeze Frame. An optical process performed in a film laboratory whereby a shot is duplicated several times to create the effect of a still picture. Emphasizes a dramatic moment.

See "Slow Motion."

Long Shot. Covers the approximate height and width of a human being. The complete figure(s) can be seen. Used for group scenes or to cover action sequences.

See "Medium Shot."

*Medium Shot.* Between a close-up and long shot. Covers the subject approximately from the waist up or waist down. Used when characters are stationary or for an exchange of normal dialogue.

See how observant your students are. Show them a short sequence from the film that features medium and long shots. Have them count how many of each were used by the director. They may have to watch the scene a few times, but it will improve their ability to concentrate and really "see" what is happening on a purely technical level. Follow this with a discussion of which was used more often, why, and if it covered the action properly. For example, was there a close-up of someone who wasn't talking in order to show their reaction, or did the director not use such a shot and therefore miss a significant moment? If the director did use a close-up, was the camera so far away from the subject that dramatic impact was lost?

Montage. A sequence of shots (usually many in a short period of time) used to create the effect of passage of time or place. In its entirety, it can also create imagery and be symbolic unto itself, above and beyond the film narrative.

If you have access to two VCRs and a set of dubbing cables, this is an interesting project. Using a copy of the movie viewed in class, have each student put together a commercial promoting the film, similar to other short promos seen on television. Designate what the commercial is to emphasize: characters, setting, plot, and so forth. The students' responsibility is to select appropriate scenes and edit them together. The audio dub feature of most VCRs can be used to have the students add their own announcer voice-overs or original music. For the safety of the equipment, it is best not

to leave the students unattended for this project. Schedule each student for use of the machines and supervise each student yourself or have another student familiar with editing techniques available to help.

Offscreen. Sound that is heard although the creator of it is not seen.

Turn down the brightness control on the TV set so that the picture can not be seen. Assuming the students are familiar with the text, have them hear the film before viewing it in its entirety. Give them a list of key lines of dialogue and have them listen to the lines being spoken. Based on their knowledge of the characters, the students must identify who said what and why. As an additional activity, have the students describe what they think the actor looks like physically, then let them compare the author's depiction of each character to the actors chosen to play the parts.

On Location. Filming done other than in a studio.

Have the students try to spot scenery that was created specially for the film. For example, a scene in a moving car where the background outside is obviously phony or a science-fiction story that takes place on a planet that doesn't exist. How close did the film come to re-creating the author's reality? In contrast to this, if the film was shot at the actual location described in the text, have the class discuss whether this was necessary or not. Was it important enough to the plot to justify the expense of taking a film crew to that location?

*Parallel Action.* Simultaneous sequences that show two or more separate actions that are interrelated by plot or theme.

If the story being read involves parallel action, as in a Dickens novel, discuss with the class the major story lines and decide which two were most important. As the students watch the film, have them try to estimate approximately how much screen time was devoted to each. Did one dominate the other? Did the director emphasize parts of the story that the author did not? Did the director's vision change the overall story? Was the story line that featured characterization sacrificed for the more visually exciting action sequences?

*Point of View.* How a story is perceived and told, by whom, and for what reason. For example, whether the narration is in the first or third person.

Most classic stories have been filmed more than once, and frequently each version has a different point of view. Try to obtain two different copies of the same film (an older version and a newer one). Divide the class in half and have each group watch one or the other, but not the same one and not both. After students have viewed the film, have them go through the story and characters, comparing the two versions. If one version was in black and white and the other in color, which do they think was more effective? Was dialogue changed or updated? How about costumes? Were they simpler or more ornate? What visual clues indicated the time period of the story in each version?

Production Music. Original music written specifically for a film.

Choose a significant scene from the story. Assign each student to pick a modern song that in some way relates to the action or ideas being shown. Have the students hand in a cassette copy of the song along with a written explanation of their choice. After looking them over, select several of the better ones. Show the scene with the TV sound turned down and the song playing instead. Discuss how the new music may have enhanced or changed the filmmaker's original intentions.

Slow Motion. When film is projected at a slower rate than at which it was shot, the pace of the action decreases and becomes exaggerated, producing dramatic and comic effects.

If applicable, have the students compare the use of fast/slow/freeze motion in the film to the corresponding section of the text. Do they feel it was an appropriate technique for the film maker to use? Did the students note anything in the text that might have inspired the filmmaker to use this technique?

Sound Effects. Any sound other than dialogue and music.

Have fun with this exercise. Show a section of the film that features action but no dialogue. Have the students (using only themselves and any materials on hand) create sound effects as they watch. They can all participate or designate each other to make particular sounds.

Special Effects. A visual that cannot be done during the course of normal filming and therefore must be created in a film laboratory or through the use of unusual film techniques.

Have the students note how many special effects were used in the film and briefly describe each. Were these a direct translation of the text or something created just for the movie? Did they add to or detract from the overall impact? Were they impressive and well done or silly and cheaply produced?

Stereoscopy. Making a flat image appear to have a third dimension. Usually requires the use of special glasses,

Have each student pick his or her favorite scene and do a threedimensional, pop-up project. First, they will need a manila folder. Next, they will draw, color, and cut out objects and characters that represent that scene in the film and attach them so that when the folder is closed, they lay flat, but when it opens, they stand up and give a sense of depth. The students should also color the folder to add an appropriate background. It may take a little experimentation on the students' part to get it right, but it's really not as difficult as it sounds and the results will surprise everyone!

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