

Summer Reading Companion

My Name: _____

Book Title: _____

Grade: _____

Author: _____

Setting: *The setting of a story defines the time, place and era of the action. A book can have multiple settings. List and label facts about each setting you know as you read. Include **page numbers** to support your ideas.*

Where does the story take place?

Describe the location: country or city, mountains or beach, dirt roads or highways, bustling or sleepy, etc.

What time period does the story take place?

*Describe what you know and **how you know it**: Is it modern day because there is current technology? Is it wintertime because it's snowing? Do you know the decade, year or month?*

Characters: *Characters are the “players” in a story who perform the actions. List the protagonist (main character), antagonist (character who the protagonist has a conflict with) and supporting or secondary characters. Include **page numbers** to support your ideas.*

Character Name	Physical Description	How the Character feels about him or herself	How the Character feels about others	Character traits: Describe qualities the character has: caring, selfish, conceited, etc.
Protagonist:				
Antagonist:				
Secondary Characters:				

Plot: *The plot of the story is how the actions progress through the book. Different sections of the action have different names; they also happen at different times in the story. Write down specific, key events in the boxes.*

Introduction: Setting, characters and conflict are introduced	Rising Action(s): Part(s) where the protagonist is faced with or tries to solve the conflict	Climax: Turning point in the story where the conflict is resolved or made worse	Falling Action(s): Part(s) where the protagonist learns to live with the consequences of the conflict	Resolution: Part that arrives at a natural, ironic, surprising or thought-provoking end
Beginning of the Story	Middle of the Story	End of the Story		

Themes & Symbolism: *As you read, list ideas about these following elements of fiction to help you discuss and write about the literary work. Include **page numbers** to support your ideas.*

Themes: The author's statement or lesson about life learned through the characters. For example, the theme of <i>The Ugly Duckling</i> might be "don't judge someone by their appearance alone."		Symbolism: When a concrete or real object is used to represent an idea or concept. For example, <i>a bird</i> , because it can fly, has often been used as a <i>symbol for freedom</i> .	
Theme	Character(s) that represent the lesson	Symbol	Significance

Conflicts: *As you read, identify problems or struggles between two opposing forces in the story. Keep in mind, the four main conflicts are:*

Man vs. Man – problem between two characters

Man vs. Self – problem within a character's own mind

Man vs. Nature – problem between character and some element of nature (blizzard, fire, etc.)

Man vs. Society – problem between a character and the law, regulation, tradition or other societal norm

Description of the Conflict	Type of Conflict	Why did you choose this Conflict type?
	Man vs. Man Man vs. Self Man vs. Nature Man vs. Society	
	Man vs. Man Man vs. Self Man vs. Nature Man vs. Society	
	Man vs. Man Man vs. Self Man vs. Nature Man vs. Society	

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THIS ASSIGNMENT:

This assignment was created as a companion for summer reading novels. Students are continually tested within the first week of returning from summer break, but are lost at home as to how to take notes on a novel that are useful for the upcoming year. This sheet works to ask the leading questions, organize, and shake the cobwebs off the facts before being assessed on a summer reading novel.

Students are reminded about:

Novel setting – including time, place and era of the action in the novel

Characters – primary & secondary

Plot movement – including verbiage on introduction, rising actions, climax, falling actions, and resolution

Theme – what lessons are imparted by the author and by which character(s)

Symbolism – introducing the idea of a concrete or real object used to represent and idea or concept

Conflict – definitions of the four conflict types and areas to identify problems or struggles between two opposing forces in the story

Enjoy!