Book Report Form: Fiction ELA: Twain SOAR Program

Reading Literature

NOTE TAKING WORKSHEET

Read the information below and complete the worksheet that follows. The information below corresponds to each question on your worksheet. As you complete the worksheet, items 1 through 9 provide you with guidance to complete each question.

1. QUOTE NOTES: Record interesting and meaningful quotes, including the page number with each quote. Indicate why you chose each quote.

**Use the quotes to support your main point. Using quotes shows that you have read the work and understand it**.

1. PLOT NOTES: Briefly summarize main events as they occur.

**Summarize the events most important to the story so you can briefly explain the story’s plot.**

1. CHARACTER NOTES: Describe the main characters only. **Know the characters as people and describe them as you would people you know.**
2. LANGUAGE NOTES: Interesting words, sentences, paragraphs. Briefly mention why you selected these. **Perhaps a word, sentence, or paragraph has touched you or caught your interest. Copy it down and explain why you have selected it.**
3. CULTURAL/POLITICAL ISSUES: e.g., evidence of discrimination, clashes between one’s culture and social environment, political discrepancies between characters.

**Cultural and political issues can also be important, but often go unnoticed when reading a good book. When you search for cultural or political issues, examine how characters with different upbringings or beliefs interact with one another. Do these different upbringings and belief inspire friendship, a challenge, or an adverse relationship? Think of why so many people disagree over politics – are there characters in this novel that cannot agree over political issues? Culture and politics are strongly tied to characters and their actions. Think of your culture and views on issues such as dating, marriage, education, animal rights, war, etc. Can you find evidence of any of these issues in the book? People have very strong personal and social beliefs, and these can often clash. These differences are often what inspire good stories.**

1. Theme/s: What underlying lesson/s or message/s does the author convey in this selection? What have you personally learned?

**Does the author seem to be trying to make a point, or prove a point, to you? Note these if you notice them. These often relate to the theme of the story.**

1. Questions and Reflections: Write questions and your personal thoughts about the text while reading.
2. Connections: Make connections between the text and your own experiences or situations you’ve witnessed.

**Relating the story’s events to your own life will help you compare the text’s events to present issues**

1. Author’s Craft: e.g., Written in 1st person, 2nd person? Use of foreshadowing? What is the mood or tone of the selection? Interesting word choices or dialect used by the author and/or the characters? What style of writing (formal, literary, journalistic, informal, etc.).

**When an architect designs a building, an engineer designs an automobile, or a carpenter builds a home he or she must utilize many tools, skills, and trade knowledge in order to succeed. Authors also utilize a set of tools and a skill set to succeed in publishing a novel.**

**Authors often use different perspectives to narrate his/her work. First-person narration is narrated from a character’s point of view. He/She discusses events, usually in past tense: e.g., “I didn’t have an answer for him.” Second-person narration portrays a narrator talking to the reader, e.g., “You notice a crack in the doll’s face.” Third-person narration comes from an omniscient (all knowing) narrator who sees and discusses all events. This narration is usually detached from the action, e.g., “Brian saw a monkey on his bed.”**

**Foreshadowing helps the reader “see” what may happen. Symbolism, setting and even threats are kinds of foreshadowing. If there is a certain person or object the character doesn’t think much about or thinks too much about , it may be important later. What do you first think of when you see a rainy day? Many think a bad day is ahead. Think of things the author writes that may not seem too important at first, then later become important. You may also think of things or events that lead you to expect what will happen.**

**The author may be making a statement with the mood of the story or trying to pull the reader in with it. How does the author seem to be using mood and tone? Is the story dark? Light-hearted? Think of why it was written that way and if it relates to anything else in the story, such as the theme.**

**A character’s manner of speech, or dialect, helps you to discern one character from another. As you walk around, listen to the way people speak. Your mother will sound different from your friends, and a country farmer will sound different than a museum worker. Now think about why the author chose to use certain dialects for certain characters. (hint: it is often to show social differences.)**

**Symbolism is the part of an author’s craft that allows him to use one thing to represent another. For example, you may have a teddy bear that reminds you of your childhood, wedding rings symbolize the marital bond, etc. Some symbols, however, can mean several things. Fire can warm or destroy. Rain can be for sadness or purification. Flowers are a part of weddings or funerals. Can you note the author’s symbols?**

**Setting is also important to the story. Try to think about where the author sets the story and why. This can involve symbolism as well. Is the weather sunny or rainy? Is the story set in the past, present, or future? Does the author seem to be doing this for a reason?**

**Helpful tip: Read the short author biographies that come before the story or in the back of the book. Reading about the author’s life can sometimes help you to understand why the work turned out as it did.**

**Who is the author? Why do you think he is writing this piece?**

**Book Report Form**

**Reading Literature**

**NOVEL WORKSHEET**

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Title of Book or Short Story \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Author \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Quote Notes: Record interesting and meaningful quotes (include page # with each quote). Indicate why you chose each quote.

2. Plot Notes: Briefly summarize main events as they occur.

3. Character Notes: Describe character/s.

4. Interesting words, sentences, paragraphs: **Briefly mention why you selected th**ese.

5. Cultural and/or Political Issues: **e.g., evidence of discrimination, clashes between one’s culture and social environment, political discrepancies between characters,** etc.

6. Theme/s: **What underlying lesson/s or message/s does the author convey in this selection? What have you personally learned?**

7. Questions and Reflections: **Write questions and your personal thoughts about the text while reading.**

8. Connections**: Between the text and your own experiences or situations you’ve witnessed.**

9. Author’s Craft: e**.g., Written in 1st person, 2nd person? Use of foreshadowing? What is the mood or tone of the selection? Interesting word choices or dialect used by the author and/or the characters? Who is the author? Why do you think he has written this piece to share with you?**