

Book Report Part 1: Character Analysis

For this part of your independent novel study, you will be taking a careful look at characters. Characters are vital to a story because they are what the story is about. It is important that a writer create realistic characters, because readers don't usually care much about characters that seem fake. By studying characters in a story, you can learn a lot about how a writer fits the pieces of a story together. You can also begin to understand a little more about the real people in YOUR life by studying characters, because good characters often have similar problems, concerns, fears and motivations as real people.

For your report, you will be doing the following things:

- Analyze in depth the main character from the book you read
- Include a picture of what you visualized your main character to look like. You can either find a magazine picture that you feel looks like the character, look on the internet, or you can draw the character, but you should have some idea in your head about what you think this character looks like. You also need to write the name of the character next to his/her picture.
- Type it neatly

CHARACTER ANALYSIS DIRECTIONS

You have to write an analysis for your main character. That means you will go through the process below. It should be typed in a google document. You must write in **COMPLETE SENTENCES** and complete thoughts. You are graded on your writing, so be sure you are using complete sentences in your analysis of the character. You must include the following information in each character analysis:

- The character's full name (first and last name – middle, if given)
- A physical description of the character (what he or she looks like)
- A description of the character's personality (think about how we did chapter two of the autobiography)
- The main goal of the character (what he/she wants to accomplish most in the story)
- The character's main flaw (the thing about the character's PERSONALITY that prevents him/her from reaching his/her goal)
- The development that the character undergoes over the course of the story. How does the character grow/change over the course of the novel? How does he/she change from the beginning of the story to the end of the story? Does the character reach his/her goal?
- How do YOU feel about this character? Do you like him/her? Why or why not? What was likeable about this person? What irritated you about him or her? Would you want this person for a family member or a friend? Why or why not?

Here is a sample of the character analysis:

Dominick Birdsey

Physical description: Dominick is 38 years old. Dominick is tall, about 6'0" and in good physical shape. He plays racquetball every week with his brother-in-law, so that's how he stays in shape. He has dark brown/black hair that is cut short, but not too short. Although he never really gives a description of his face, I got the impression that he was good looking, and that he had strong cheekbones and a strong chin. I also think, because he is part Italian, the he has slightly darker skin- olive skin.

Personality description: Dominick is pretty depressed through most of the book. He has a lot to deal with in his life and it seems to have caught up with him. He also seems apathetic about some things in his life that he should care about. In general, it could be said that Dominick has a bad attitude. He can have a bad temper and say things quickly without thinking. He has given up on some things, like his teaching career and his wife, and just let them float away from him without really trying to get them back.

Main goal: Dominick has several goals, but I think the main goal is to get his life in order.

Main flaw: Dominick's main flaw would have to be his way of letting things go and then not being able to see a way to get them back. He lets himself sink deeper and deeper in a hole.

Development: Dominick is able to develop quite a bit over the course of the novel with the help of his psychiatrist, Dr. Patel. He is able to realize that he is not totally responsible for his twin brother Thomas. He is also able to let go of most of the anger that he has about his life, both in the past and the present. Once he is able to let go of some of the anger, he becomes less offensive to the people around him. He learns to take care of things that have happened so that he doesn't sink deeper and deeper. He also knows whom he DOESN'T want to be like (his grandfather Domenico) so he works to not be arrogant and self-centered. In the end, Dominick reaches his goals and more. He is able to accomplish more than he ever dreamed.

My Opinion: At first I was really mad at Dominick. He would do things that seemed so stupid and then he wouldn't do anything to fix the problem. Even though he would make me angry, he was a likeable person. You could tell that he had had a difficult life and he was trying to have a happy life; he just didn't know how. I think I would like to have Dominick for a friend because he has a good heart and is kind to his friends. I don't think I would want to have him as a family member, though, because he had some other family members who were a pain, and I wouldn't want to have to deal with them. If Dominick was a real person, I would like to be his friend, but I have a feeling he would be a friend who always needed some kind of help. He might not always be that much fun to be around.

Book Report Part 2: Choose Comic Strip or Timeline

Comic Strip Guidelines:

For this project, you'll create a comic strip based on the plot of your independent reading book. Your comic strip should include illustrations as well as text. Look at the example included on the back of this sheet as a guide: *The Twelve Tasks of Heracles*.

Materials:

Large sheets of white construction paper or multiple sheets of printer paper, thin markers, colored pencils, and ruler

Directions:

1. After reading your book, plan out your events from your novel using the planning sheet. You will use the events from this planning sheet to help you when you create your comic strip.
2. Organize your comic strip so that it is separated by each of the 5 plot elements from your planning sheet. In other words, have a heading labeled "Exposition" and draw the events that go with the exposition together. Then include a heading labeled "Rising Action" and draw the events from the rising action, and so on.
3. When drawing your comic strip, you might need to make some frames larger and some smaller, depending on what you will include in each. Draw and write in pencil first, then trace over with pen or thin marker. Keep the illustrations and text as neat as possible. Then, color your comic strip using colored pencils.
4. Give your comic strip a title. Write your name, the book, and the author's name on your project.

THE TWELVE TASKS OF HERACLES



Heracles was a tough little baby.



Everyone loved him but Hera, Zeus's wife, who sent two snakes to kill him.



But Heracles strangled both of them.



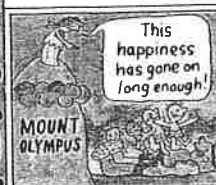
For a while, Hera ignored Heracles.



As he grew up, Heracles became stronger and stronger and stronger.



He married and had many children.



Hera hated him for being so happy.



So one night she put a spell on him. Heracles lashed out with his sword, killing imaginary enemies.



When he woke from the spell, he saw that he had killed his own children.



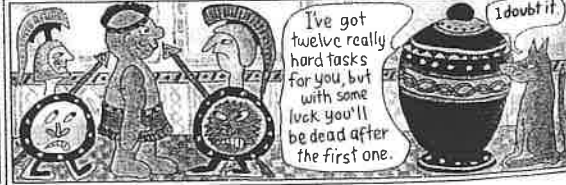
Heartbroken, Heracles went to the temple to seek forgiveness.



The priestess said he could make amends by serving his old enemy, King Eurystheus.



The king was frightened of Heracles, so he hid in a pot whenever he came near.



And because he hated Heracles, he gave him twelve deadly tasks.

Book Report Part 2: Choose Timeline OR Comic Strip

Timeline Guidelines:

Materials:

Poster board or large construction paper, ruler, colored pencils or markers

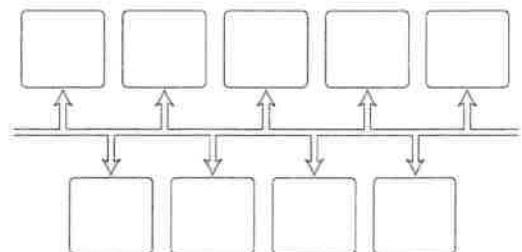
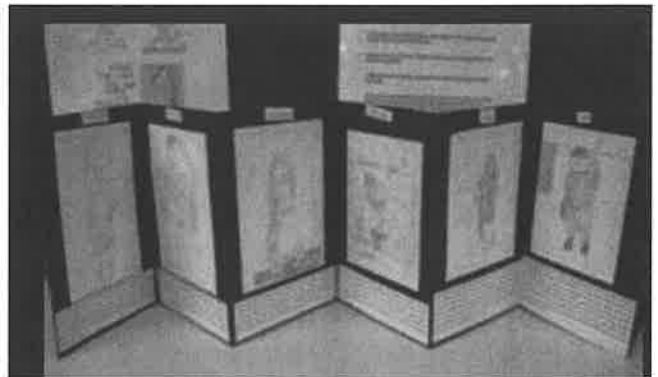
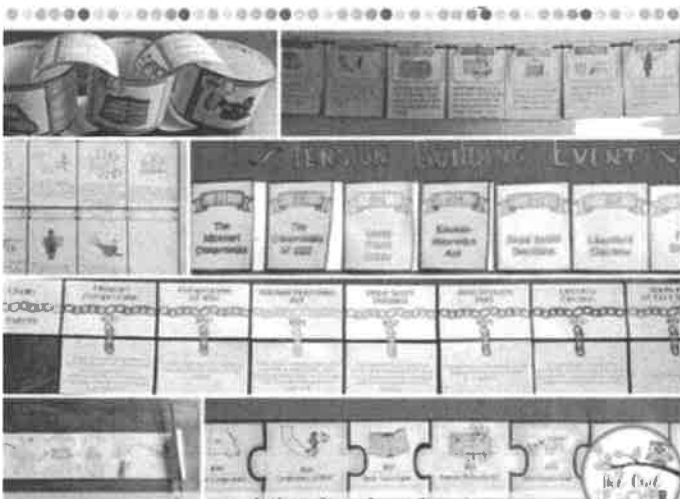
Directions:

For this project you will create a timeline of the major events in your novel. Make sure you are choosing the events needed to demonstrate the different elements of the plot (exposition, rising actions, climax, falling actions, and resolution) and write a description of each event. Use the planning sheet to map out your story before you begin your timeline.

Your timeline needs to be neat, easy to read and in chronological order. The timeline needs to be color-coded in some way to represent the different elements of the plot:

- Exposition: blue
- Rising Actions: green
- Climax: red
- Falling Actions: orange
- Resolution: yellow

Here are some ideas of how you could organize your timeline. Be creative! ☺



Planning Sheet

Exposition:

-
-
-

Rising Actions:

-
-
-
-

Climax:

-

Falling Actions:

-
-

Resolution:

-
-

Exposition: Beginning of the Story

The exposition is the beginning of the story and prepares the way for upcoming events. In the exposition, the author introduces the major characters, establishes the setting and reveals major conflicts in the story. The author often discusses the characters' backstory, so readers gain insight as to why characters act or respond as they do. For example, the exposition in "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" by Mark Twain centers on the introduction of Huckleberry Finn, an adolescent who's unhappy living with a strict widow, and has a shallow relationship with his greedy, unfit father. The **setting** is the mid-1800s in a small river town along the Mississippi River; the **conflict** revolves around Huck's desire to experience adventure, and his running away. The exposition sets the stage for his tumultuous, life-changing journey on a riverboat.

Rising Action

The rising action occurs when the main problem or conflict is addressed with a form of action. **The rising action always leads up to the climax**. During the rising action, the protagonist often encounters some sort of crisis that creates tension. For example, in "The Maze Runner" by James Dashner, the rising action occurs when Thomas -- the protagonist -- enters the maze to try to escape his prison-like existence and save his friends.

Climax or Turning Point

The climax is the pivotal point in the story when the protagonist deals with the culmination of events. **The climax often centers on the protagonist's most difficult challenge or bleakest moment**, according to Pasadena City College. For example, in "The Hunger Games" by Suzanne Collins, the climax occurs when Katniss and Peeta -- the primary protagonists -- decide to eat poisonous berries and commit double suicide, rather than kill one another. The climax is the most exciting part of the story and initiates a turning point in the characters' lives. This is also where the goal is accomplished.

Falling Action

The falling action occurs immediately after the climax and **details the consequences -- good or bad -- that the characters must deal with after the turning point of events**. It leads up to the resolution and sets the stage for the final chapter of the story.

Resolution: End of the Story

The resolution tells us what happens to the characters after the conflict is resolved. All the loose ends are tied up, unless the author plans to write a sequel and purposely leaves room for further plot developments. **Some stories have happy endings; others have sad endings**. The resolution leaves readers with a sense of closure, so they understand the fate of the protagonists and antagonists.

Checkpoints for Completion

Element of Project:	How far I Should be my novel:	Check Point Date:
1. Character Analysis a. Physical Description b. Personality Description 2. Planning Sheet a. Exposition	1/4 of my novel is read _____ pages	
1. Character Analysis a. Main Goal b. Main Flaw 2. Planning Sheet a. Rising Actions	1/2 of my novel is read _____ pages	
1. Planning Sheet a. Rising Actions b. Climax 2. Start getting materials gathered/bought for timeline or comic strip	3/4 of my novel is read _____ pages	
1. Character Analysis a. Development b. My Opinion 2. Complete your planning sheet 3. Create your Timeline OR Comic Strip	I finished reading my novel 😊	Character Analysis is due on _____ <i>My final project is due _____</i>