

Setting – _____

(Book Title)

Find three descriptive passages where the setting is developed. How has the author made the setting vivid? Provide an excerpt (quote) from each of the three passages you find. Be sure the quoted selections are the best examples from the book. (Hint: good examples are probably very rich in sensory language!)

1)

2)

3)

What is the *main* setting? Where and when does this novel take place? (If there are multiple settings, consider the setting that is most central/important to the story.)

How much does the setting matter? What impact, if any, does the setting have on the story? Could the story take place somewhere else, and still have the same conflict? (*For example, if your story takes place in a city there are probably a lot of people around. Could it have been set in the country where there are fewer people?*)

Explain why you feel the setting does/doesn't matter to the conflict of your story.

Narrator & Point of View – _____

(Book Title)

Who is the narrator of this book? Say more than just the narrator’s name. Describe who they are by telling what you know about them?

What kind of narrator is this then? Do you have a first person narrator who is a character in the story? Or do you have a third person narrator who is not involved in the plot, but rather is relaying events to you using the characters in the story. Perhaps this narrator is questionable, or “unreliable”, because of illness or some other character defect. Does this narrator know everything (thoughts/feelings of several characters), or are they limited to knowing only what goes on in the mind of the main character?

How does the author’s choice of narrator impact you? Are you left wanting more information? If so, what information do you wish you had known as you were reading the book? Do you feel satisfied? Was the choice of narrator a flaw or a positive trait in the way this book was written?

Characterization – _____

(Book Title)

Characterization is more than just naming and describing characters. Another important thing to note is **how** we get to know the characters. In a novel, the narrator may describe the characters to us, but we usually get to know characters through our own observations. What methods of characterization did the author of this book use? How did you get to know the characters? Use the chart to help you keep track of moments where you meet new characters. This will save you time later.

Character Name	What do we learn about this character here? Is there a physical description? Did you find out something about his/her personality?	Page Number

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Plot & Conflict – _____

(Book Title)

Describe the plot in 3-4 sentences. How realistic is the plot? Would you say the plot is the focal point of the book, or was something else, like characterization, more important?

What is the central conflict of this book?

Consider the techniques used by the author. Were there any *red herrings*? What about *cliffhangers*? How about examples of *foreshadowing*? Be sure to quote examples where possible and include page numbers.

Technique	Quote	Page Number

Theme – _____

(Book Title)

Remember that there are multiple definitions for theme; however, it is not the same as plot. Do not summarize the story!! Themes are universal statements/concepts that the reader takes away from the book. Pieces of literature normally have several themes. Use the chart below to help you determine the themes of your book.

Name a concept/issue that is being handled/explored in the book.	Write a statement that sums up what the reader learns from the book’s treatment of this concept/issue. This statement should be general enough that it could be applied to another piece of literature, and all people could relate to it.	Page Number
1)		
2)		
3)		
4)		
5)		

Explain how the author used the characters and the plot to address each of the themes you identified on the front. Also, explain whether or not the theme was fully developed, or just hinted at.

1)

2)

3)

4)

5)

Additional Elements – _____

(Book Title)

Irony, Symbolism, & Flashback

Here are three more elements often found in fiction. You must blog about at least one of these three elements. In order to prepare yourself, keep track of these here.

Element/Technique	Example/Quote	Page Number

Language Use – _____ (Book Title)

Part of what makes us enjoy a particular book, or author, is the style of the writing. An author's use of language and word choice can really "make or break" our opinions of a piece of literature. Some authors rely heavily on dialogue between characters, while others prefer to have the narrator relay most of the information to us. Authors often spruce up their writing by incorporating figurative language and language devices (alliteration, onomatopoeia, puns, clichés, idioms, personification, repetition, imagery, sensory language, etc). In some instances, simply the author's choice of wording is unique and appealing to us. Use the information you tracked on the graphic organizer titled: **Tracking My Text As I Read**. Discuss in 7-8 sentences how you feel about the author's use of language. What worked for you? What didn't work as well? How would you rate this author's style?

Structure –

(Book Title)

Explain how the author organized the novel? Was this a standard, chronological story: beginning, middle, end? Or were the events told out of order? Perhaps it was an epistolary novel, where the story is revealed through a collection of letters, correspondences, or diary entries. Maybe there were multiple realities and the author went back and forth every other chapter. Or, there may have been multiple narrators who switched on and off.

Describe in detail the organization of your book, and include your opinion of how successful the structure was. Be specific about why you feel the way you do. This should be a paragraph.

Tracking My Text As I Read

Name _____ Home Book _____

(Book Title)

Look for examples of the traits listed below as you are reading. When you notice an example, put the page number in the box beside the trait. When you are finished reading the book you should be able to easily go back and locate your examples. This will help you to complete this packet as you get ready to compare your two books. Being strict with yourself now will save you a lot of time later!

Trait	Page #	Page #	Page #	Page #	Page #	Page #	Page #
Use of vivid details regarding the setting: uses imagery and sensory language. The description is so clear you feel you are there.							
Use of humor, drama, suspense, or cliffhanger to grab the reader's attention							
Use of precise, vivid language for description or to show action rather than just tell about it							
Use of language devices to enhance writing and increase interest: metaphor, simile, hyperbole, alliteration, onomatopoeia, oxymoron, juxtaposition							
Use of additional techniques to "flavor" the writing: allusion, personification, symbolism							
Characterization Highlights: moments that can be used as direct quotes for support in your comparison. These should be moments that cause you to have an opinion, or to change your opinion of a given character.							
Track the conflict: When are you first made aware of the central conflict? What instances are building the conflict? Where is the climax? When does the conflict reach a resolution?							
Evidence/examples of irony, flashback, and foreshadowing. Be sure to label your page # so that you recall the type of example.							
Title Significance: find hints that reveal the reason for the author's choice of title.							
Your thoughts: What do you want to remember to make comments on?							