



**ENGLISH 11-2
INDEPENDENT NOVEL UNIT
INDIVIDUAL AND GROUP ASSIGNMENTS, DEADLINES AND POINT VALUES**

NOTE: Once the novel is acquired, the group must **DIVIDE THE NOVEL INTO FOUR SOMEWHAT EQUAL SECTIONS**. All assignments listed will be based on SECTION 1, 2, 3 AND 4 of the novel. The section divisions may be based on chapters or page numbers, whichever makes the most sense for the novel that you are reading. **LIST THE SECTION DIVISIONS FOR YOUR NOVEL BELOW**, which will then correspond to reading deadlines, book chat dates, close reading note designation, vocabulary log groupings and reading journal entry groups.

- Section 1 _____ to _____ (chapters or pages) due by Friday, April 2 (first book chat)
- Section 2 _____ to _____ (chapters or pages) due by Friday, May 9 (second book chat)
- Section 3 _____ to _____ (chapters or pages) due by Friday, May 16 (third book chat)
- Section 4 _____ to _____ (chapters or pages) due by Friday, May 23 (fourth book chat)

INDIVIDUAL ACTIVITIES THAT NEED TO BE COMPLETED DURING THE READING OF EACH OF THE FOUR SECTIONS:

1. STICKY NOTE ANNOTATION/CLOSE READING NOTES: 5 points for annotations for each Section/Book Chat due date x 4 = 20 pts. possible.

As you read your novel, make brief, notes. To simplify this task and keep yourself actively reading, write on “sticky notes” and place them in the book next to the relevant passages. This activity will help you personally connect with the text, develop deeper insights into human experience, and respond thoughtfully to the ideas and insights presented.

Sample annotation notes will be asked for with each close reading.

What you should note on your sticky notes:

- Speech, actions or thoughts that reveal more about character (s)
- Connections you can make with people, places and situations from your own life and with ideas familiar to you
- What you think the author is saying about people, places, situations and ideas
- Words, ideas, and actions that are unclear (keeping in mind they may become clear later)
- Your predictions
- Your inferences (reading between the lines and inferring what the author does not say)
- Your reflections and evaluations (respond to what you’ve read and pass judgment)
- Examples of literary techniques/elements such as irony, foreshadowing, simile, metaphor, personification, motif, allusion, imagery, etc.





2. VOCABULARY LOG

For **each section** of the novel you will **choose a vocabulary activity** from the list below. You may repeat an activity only once from section to section, so choose carefully.
5 pts. per section X 4 = 20 pts. total. Due the day of the BOOK CHAT for each section.

- 1) Choose 10 **words for which you do not know the meaning**. List the page # where the word is found, write the sentence that contains the word, and record the dictionary definition for the word.
- 2) Using **words of interest or importance** within a section, **create a crossword** with 10 words across and 10 down. Provide a clue for each word and the answer key.
- 3) Using words from the section, **create a thesaurus by** listing 10 words that seem overused or common and rewrite the sentence from the section in which the word was found, replacing the original word with a better synonym. List the original word and page # at the beginning of each new sentence.
- 4) List 10 interesting, **important or unusual words** from the section and explain the reasons for choosing each word. What does it tell us about a character, a location, an emotion, a conflict etc. List the word and page # before each explanation.

3. READER'S JOURNAL ENTRIES

For **EACH SECTION/BOOK CHAT Deadline**, you are to complete 1 journal entry per section/book chat x 4 sections = 40 journal pts. (note: you cannot repeat the same journal)

NOTE: Do not just summarize the novel in your journal, but do give **SPECIFIC EXAMPLES** from the novel to support your opinions, thoughts, and reactions.

Journal Entry Choices:

- 1) Give a brief summary of the plot. 1-2 full pages, tell the story up to that point in the section. Include 3-5 of the main events.
- 2) Explain the significance of the title (10-14 sentences). Authors do not choose a title randomly. Usually the title is symbolic in some way.
- 3) Describe the setting and genre – time period, location, etc.
- 4) Discuss in 1-2 full pages your ideas about the main character (s). Answer what you like or dislike about them and why they are worthy of praise and/or criticism.
- 5) In 1-2 full pages, identify what caused a major change in the main character(s) and explain how the character (s) changed. These changes may have been a consequence of choice, a conflict, a display of some outstanding trait like courage, or even a result of events that occur during the novel.
- 6) Copy 10 of your favorite phrase/sentences from the section and explain why you chose them.
- 7) List 2 truths about human nature and find 2 events from the section that relate to those truths.
- 8) Title two columns with opposite words (hate/love, peace/violence, power/submission, honesty/deceit, etc). Now list 5 elements from the section (characters' speeches/actions, plot development, symbols, etc) that fit the descriptive words.
- 9) Choose one sentence from the section and tell why this sentence embodies the theme of the story.
- 10) Choose a controversial issue from the text and take a stand on ONE SIDE of the issue. Write a 1-2 pages discussing your reasons for disagreeing or agreeing with a decision a character made in the novel regarding this issue.
- 11) Make a prediction of what is going to happen next. Explain and defend.
- 12) Give your opinion of the author's writing style? What images captured your interest? How did the author create suspense?
- 13) Complete any one or two of the following statements as if you were a character in the novel. List and briefly describe the character before completing and developing the statement in your journal.
Sometimes I worry about... An object that would best describe me or my conflict is...
An important goal for me is... In ten years, I see myself...
- 14) Write a letter to a character expressing concern, congratulations, or anger over something the character said or did in the section. Then, write a return letter from the character back to you as if you are the character, depicting what his/her attitude and feelings would be in reaction to the thoughts and words expressed in your letter.



4. QUESTIONS IN PREPARATION FOR THE BOOK CHATS

—For each section, you are to write **5 questions that pertain to that section** and that express confusions you would like clarified, areas of surprise or shock, or that simply verify what you believe is happening in each section. Due the day of the BOOK CHAT for each section.

Questions = 5 pts. per section X 4 = 20 pts.



5. NOVEL PROJECT

You are to **INDIVIDUALLY COMPLETE TWO** of the following projects by the day that the BOOK SIGNING EVENTS begin = **50 pts X 2 = 100 pts (summative)**
One must be A or B, the other option can be of your choice.

A. **Literary Comparison**

B. **Literary Critique**

C. **Music Score**—Soundtracks are used to enhance the story told. The music should reflect what is taking place at any given point in the novel, and in the case of a movie, on the screen. **CREATE a SOUNDTRACK** for your novel with a minimum of 5 SONGS (with or without lyrics) that reflect various important plot elements, character elements, emotional elements etc. Be ready to submit a CD with the music in the order that would reflect the order of the novel, and a set of SOUNTRACK NOTES that explain where each song connects in the novel and how each song connects to what is happening plot wise, character wise, theme wise etc. Credit each song in your notes with artist included and the CD/Album from where it is taken.

D. **Dramatic Monologues**—Write 3 monologues for one character that would reflect that character's feelings, emotions, and thoughts about what is happening in the novel. Each monologue must be at least a page in length and must be ORIGINAL, not just words taken directly from the novel. Choose scenes that are central to the conflict and that are spread throughout the novel (one from beginning, middle and end of the novel)

E. **Art Connection**—Find 3 pieces of art related to the novel or to themes that are present in the novel. Then, for each piece of art, write a page of explanation in which you explore the connections to the novel and how it displays the emotions, a character, a theme idea etc.

F. **Poetry**—Write 5 poems of at least 10 lines each that connect in some way to the novel. The poem might be a reflection of a theme idea, a character, an emotion, an issue etc. The structure of each is up to you, the poet, and each may be very different in structure and tone.

G. **New Ending**—Re-write the ending of your novel by writing a NEW LAST CHAPTER. The chapter should be a minimum of five pages in length, and it should remain consistent with the original novel's POINT-OF-VIEW and VERB TENSE. Just before the new ending, include a paragraph explaining how the novel really ends, and explain what your new ending will change. Use narrative similar to the style of the original. Do not just explain the new ending, but write it in NARRATIVE, PROSE form.