

ENG3U: Analysis of a Novel

NAME OF STUDENT: _____

NOVEL _____ AUTHOR: _____

As you read your ISU book, fill out the following questions to the best of your abilities. It is understood that some of these questions will be difficult; however it is still important to try to answer them – **if you are unsure of the answer, simply brainstorm what some possibilities might be**. As much as possible, try to jot down evidence (including page numbers) to back up your ideas and points.

General Information and Style

- Who does the book seem to have been written for (who is its audience?) – young people or old? Rich people or less well-off people? Men or women? What makes you think this?

- From what POV (point of view) is your story told? How might this impact the story?

Setting

- During what time period and geographical location does the story take place?

- What is the general mood/atmosphere like?

- What dominant social conditions are present that might influence the story, and how?

Plot

Referring to your short story notes, try to identify what happens in your story during each of the following phases.

- Intro (which characters are introduced and how is the setting revealed?)
- Rising action (how is the event complicated, and what kind of conflict is revealed (man vs. _____?)
- Climax (where is the “hinge” of the story, where the hero’s decision/action will determine how the conflict is resolved?)
- Falling action (how does the conflict begin to be resolved, and what happens?)
- Denouement (how is the story wrapped up and concluded?)

Characters

- Who is the protagonist in the book? Describe him/her at the start of the book, especially with regard to character traits.

- How has he/she changed as the story has progressed?
- Who are some supporting characters in the book, and what is the relationship of each to the protagonist?
- Who is the antagonist? What is his/her/its relationship to the protagonist? Briefly describe him/her/it.

Theme

- Based on what you have read so far, what are some possible themes in your novel? (The title is usually a hint.)
Remember – a theme is never one word. It is a statement about life.
- What prominent literary devices in your story (especially symbolism and/or metaphors) help build this theme?

Evaluation:

Your analysis sheets will be evaluated according to the following rubric. This analysis sheet will be worth 10% of your overall assignment grade.

	Level 1 (50%-59%)	Level 2 (60%-69%)	Level 3 (70%-79%)	Level 4 – to Level 4 (80%-89%)	Level 4 to Level 4+ (90%-100%)
	Below Expectations	Approaching Expectations	Meeting Expectations	Beyond Expectations	
Application (10) -Degree to which you can answer these questions fully and comprehensively	You missed more than one question OR Your answers demonstrate that you really struggled with understanding much of your chosen work.	You missed one question OR Your answers demonstrate that you struggled with understanding some parts of the book (or you don't understand some elements of story)	You answered every question; answers show general understanding of the book.	You answered each question fully , providing more detail than necessary.	Your answers were absolutely excellent and comprehensive , demonstrating outstanding knowledge of both the book and the elements of story.