

Summer reading Socratic seminar preparation questions: You may neatly write or type and print.

Due _____

Student name: _____ **Class:** _____

Plot/Characterization/Point of View/Motivation

1. How does the author create the setting? Do they do it explicitly or through subtle details?
2. Who do you consider to be the protagonist? (e.g. Whose decisions are driving the plot forward? Who is the antagonist, and what puts them in opposition to the protagonist?)
3. What is the point of view, and how does it affect the story by being from that particular perspective? What is an alternative perspective that would drastically change the story?
4. Is the narrator reliable? Is it clear that we are getting a truthful account of the story? What clues might show that the narrator has a bias?
5. What's the inciting incident (the first major conflict) that sends the protagonist down this journey?
6. What conflicts create the rising action of the plot? How does the conflict increase for the protagonist? Is this conflict caused by the protagonist, antagonist, or the environment around them? Are their choices creating the conflict or is it an inevitable struggle?
7. What is the internal conflict of the protagonist and/or other characters, and why do they experience this?
8. What is motivating the protagonist's choices? Do you agree with their motivation?

Reflection/Style/Resolution/Relevancy

9. Does the author have a particular style? What creates this style? Is it the length or rhythm of their sentences? Use of punctuation? Lots of dialogue/next to no dialogue? Paragraph/Chapter length?
10. What objects, people, locations, or colors could be symbols? What could they mean?
11. How does the author use dialogue and what effect does it have?
12. How does cause and effect move the plot forward?
13. Do the characters have choice? Do you believe they have free will or is their fate inevitable, no matter what they choose?
14. How has the conflict increased from the beginning of the book?
15. Who do you empathize with the most? What about that character makes you connect to them and feel their feelings?
16. How do you feel about the conclusion? What emotions did it create in you?
17. Was there a resolution to the conflict in the story or did the story just end? Explain.
18. What is the social commentary in the book?