

Things to Consider while **Journaling** on *The Stranger* by Albert Camus

(You're not required to address these points, but they may help in reading the novel in a way that fortifies your existing skills.)

- Review the notes on existentialism and consider how those ideas and techniques are made clear in the novel.
- Dark/light imagery is very strong in chapter one. If you notice interesting examples of this, consider discussing the use of this imagery and the effect it has on the reader.
- The first three chapters depict Meursault's relationships with others. Consider each specific relationship as it is delineated in these chapters.
- Meursault appears unaware of the emotional reactions expected of him. Pay notice to these ironic situations when you would have expected a totally different reaction from a character. In each, discuss the usual reaction and then Meursault's reaction.
- In chapter 6, Meursault's "journey into hell" is reflected in the climate. Attend to exactly what happens in this chapter that "destroy[s] the balance of the day" for Meursault and to what degree the climate had anything to do with it.
- What do you think Camus was satirizing in the course of the trial scenes? Use direct quotes to support your answer. What paradox do you find in this?
- In the final chapter Meursault comes to an awakening of sorts. Give 3 examples that show he has moved a bit into a less existentialistic state.
- Find 6 quotes throughout the novel that best characterize Meursault- explain what each quote shows about his character.
- Consider the novel as a story of "Rebirth" (from the Seven Types of Plots). While it fits the traditional narrative in some ways, consider how it defies it.
- Though he is certainly not a traditional one, many literary critics consider Meursault to be a Christ figure. Consider your Lit Notes and how the protagonist might be legitimately considered as such. If Camus intended this, what does it say about the meaning of the work as a whole?