

READING COMPREHENSION PROTOCOL

Whenever you're assigned *literary fiction* to read for class, please follow this protocol:

In the margins of your book (or on sticky notes) take explicit notes about ...

- ☐ the key plot elements (e.g., setting, characterization, conflicts) of the assigned reading,
- ☐ the narrative point of view the author uses in the assigned reading,
- ☐ the unique perspective of each main character in the assigned reading,
- ☐ any figurative language (e.g., symbolism, metaphor, simile, onomatopoeia, personification, hyperbole, meiosis, idiom) used,
- ☐ both the tone (i.e. the narrator's attitude) and the mood (i.e. the general feeling) of the assigned reading,
- ☐ any irony (i.e. the contrast between expectation and reality) in the assigned reading, and
- ☐ the purpose or function of this specific chunk of the text.

Highlight (in distinctly different colors) the following:

- ☐ any figurative language which you struggled to interpret
- ☐ particularly vivid imagery (e.g. visual, auditory, olfactory, tactile, gustatory) the author uses
- ☐ two key passages in the assigned reading that helped you to understand each of your two assigned themes
- ☐ two or three key quotations that really make a particular perspective (e.g. the narrator's, a specific character's) clear

Scribble a question mark next to the following:

- ☐ any literal language which you struggled to interpret
- ☐ any allusions (e.g., real-world references) you'll need to look up for more context

Circle the following new things:

- ☐ any new words with which you're unfamiliar
- ☐ any new characters you'll want to add to your Character Log

At the end of the assigned reading (either in the margins or on sticky notes), answer three of the following questions:

- ☐ What is one notable parallel and one notable contrast in this assigned reading?
- ☐ How does the perspective of each character change or shift throughout the assigned reading?
- ☐ What are two interesting stylistic choices that the author makes in the assigned reading?
 - Why might the author have chosen to do this and not something else?
- ☐ How does the figurative language help to create mood in the assigned reading?
 - How would the emotions hit different if the language were only literal?
- ☐ How does the author use narrative perspective to create irony in the assigned reading?
 - To talk about irony, identify the expectation and the reality.
- ☐ Looking back at your pre-notes on this text, how can they *enhance* your understanding of this specific assigned reading?

On your Theme Log ...

- ☐ track each instance where your two assigned thematic motifs are addressed in the assigned reading,
- ☐ be sure to accurately record citations and context so that you can easily find the evidence later, and
- ☐ record a brief inference (i.e. your own, original thinking) about how the evidence connects to theme.

In your Journal, add to your growing personal vocabulary list by ...

- ☐ recording any words from the assigned reading with which you're unfamiliar,
- ☐ recording — for each — a practical definition from Oxford Learner's Dictionary,
- ☐ looking up the etymology of one interesting word and recording its origins and parts, and
- ☐ including a brief note about how the author actually used one of these words in the assigned reading.

