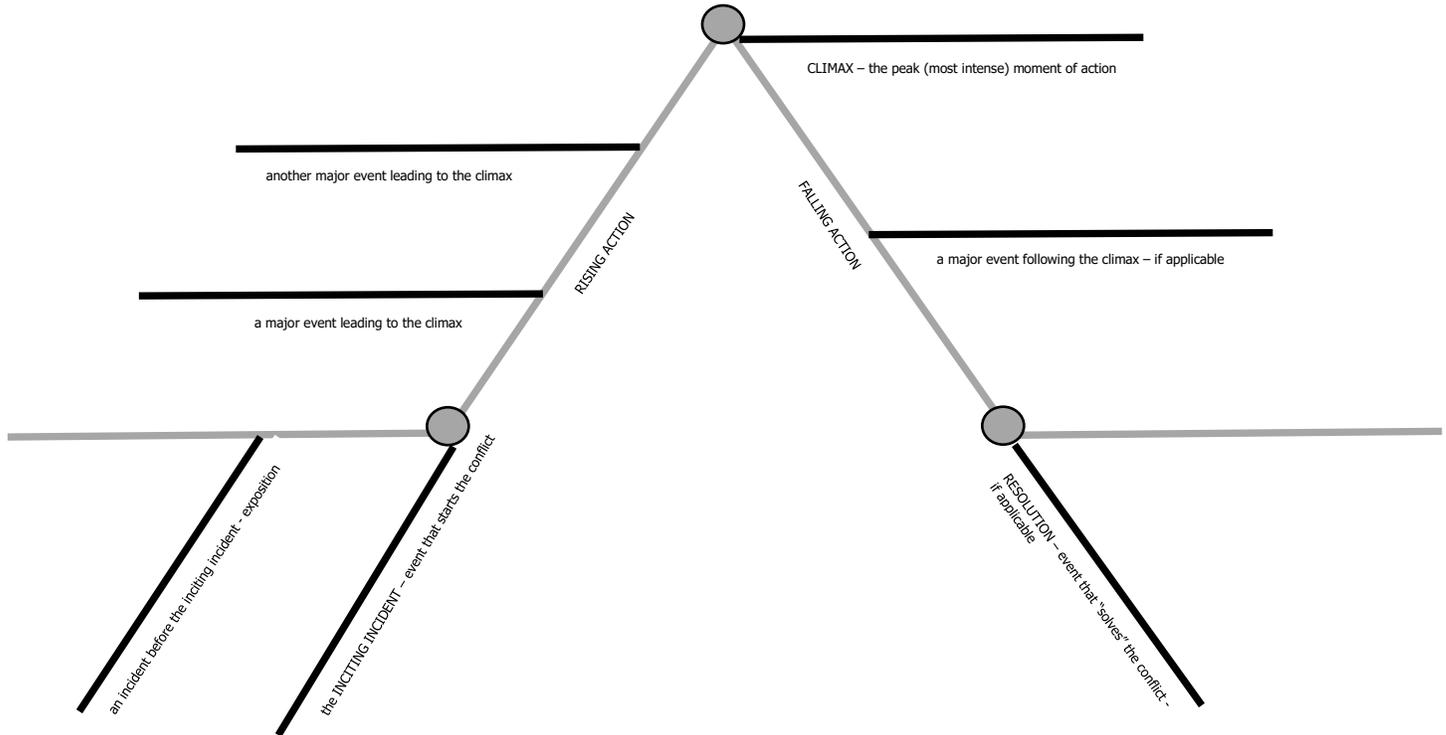


Summer Reading Guide

**Directions: To prepare for work in class with your summer reading texts, apply these various literary devices to each one.**

Give the book's full MLA citation here: \_\_\_\_\_

Keeping in mind that most classic works reveal several critical storylines, select the *main* one and show key events in the book on this **plot** diagram. Make sure you are putting **IMPORTANT** events on the diagram.



Choose a couple of important **characters** from the book and reveal their characterization – and why this matters. Are the characters flat or round? Are they static or dynamic? Why does this matter?

Here are some examples: In *To Kill a Mockingbird*, the fact that Atticus Finch is a static character – he doesn't change – is a BIG deal because he maintains his integrity and moral convictions in the face of major criticism and cruelty. Bob Ewell is an example of a static character who *needs* to change but doesn't, and Boo Radley were NOT dynamic – he warms up with the children and gains the courage to come out of his home– the children would be dead, since he saves them from Bob Ewell's attack!

Character One	Flat or Round?	Static or Dynamic?	Significance
Character Two	Flat or Round?	Static or Dynamic?	Significance

**Point of View** – Circle the point of view in your book:      First Person                      Third Person Omniscient                      Third Person Objective

Whose **perspective** do we get? (Whose mind are we in?): \_\_\_\_\_

Describe the **IMPACT** of the book's **point of view**. In other words, how would the book be different in *another* point of view? Why does the author's choice of point of view "matter"? What if the book were in some *other* character's perspective?

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**Setting** – Tell when and where the story takes place, and briefly discuss the setting's **IMPACT** on the story. Here are some questions to consider for describing the setting's impact: What are some historical, political, and/or social issues of the period in which the novel takes place? What effect on characters' motivations and actions does the setting have? Could the action of the story happen in *another* time and/or place?

When \_\_\_\_\_ Where \_\_\_\_\_

Impact \_\_\_\_\_

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**Conflict** – Recognizing that most interpretive texts follow more than one conflict, circle the type for the **MAIN** conflict in the book, and explain who or what conflicts with whom or what and how this conflict drives the plot.

Man Versus Man

Man Versus Himself

Man Versus Machine

Man Versus Society

Man Versus Nature

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Describe the writer's **tone** (if nonfiction) or narrator's (for fiction): \_\_\_\_\_

List sixteen words from *throughout* the text that helped you to interpret this tone (make sure to cite the page number for each word):

*	*	*	*
*	*	*	*
*	*	*	*
*	*	*	*

What would you say is the dominant **mood** for the story and why? Or, if the mood *shifts*, tell how it "moves" and makes you feel differently.

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Most interpretive works include purposeful **allusions** (references to figures or events in history, the bible, mythology, or other literary works) to propel the plot, reveal a character, establish a theme, etc. Name an allusion you see in each summer reading text and tell what it *shows* in the whole book.

allusion: \_\_\_\_\_

What the allusion reveals/shows: \_\_\_\_\_

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Thoroughly reveal a key **theme** of the text. Do not just give themes as "topics" (i.e. love, betrayal, ambition), though this is a good *starting point* for considering which themes books imply. Work to develop a few *thematic statements* that reveal the text's central messages (NOT plot!). Theme goes *beyond* what happens in a book; FROM what happens in the text we can determine what *about* life/humanity the author wants us to know. Thus, a topic like conformity/rebellion might lead to a thematic statement like, "Blind conformity to unquestioned tradition can cause people to harm others."

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Most interpretive works also include meaningful **symbols** (concrete objects—or even people—that *represent* an abstract idea, emotion, or message). Thus, we can see, for instance, that the caged bird in Maya Angelou's poem "Caged Bird" is not *just* a bird. This imprisoned bird shows us what oppression is and does. Identify a meaningful symbol in each book, and discuss its impact on the whole text.

Symbol (tell what represents what!) and its impact: \_\_\_\_\_

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