Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Hour\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Elements of Literature Notes Sheet

NOTES INCLUDED-KEY

Exposition- The introductory material in the book. This is always the beginning of the book. Gives the:

1. **Setting-** the time period (ex- Civil War, in the future, 1985, modern day) . A book could have more than one setting and could go back and forth. Story could start out in the 70’s disco era, mostly at night but then skip to the year 2017, in a nursing home**.**

1. **Place:** Where the story takes place. ( ex- a middle school, on Mars, in the country. What kind of feeling does this place give you? This is important to the story because it sets the mood. ( ie- gloomy place, poor place, exciting place)
2. **Facts necessary** to understand the upcoming story that is about to unfold; the background.

\*The **“rules**” of the society at the time- ex.- woman can’t go outside without an escort

\*The **types of people** in the story – ex.. Royals in England , runaway kids from an orphanage where the rule is you have to stay until you’re 19, or two tribes of cats who can speak have been at war for years.

Characterization: The techniques the author uses to develop and create personality, including a physical description of the characters. Author reveals character traits through:

1. **Dialogue- Characters talking to eachother . Dialogue uses quotation marks around what the character is actually saying.**

* **“You are always late and never have your homework,” Max said to Kristin.**

**( This shows Kristin is lazy and unorganized. )**

1. **Inner feelings of characters- Usually told in first person .**

* ***I am going to just take a zero again. I am not interested in working hard towards an A this time. Who cares if I get a C- . I can’t find the study guide anyhow*.**

**( This shows the character is lazy and unorganized but is the character’s inner feelings. Not necessarily said to another character) Often, italics is used to show the character is talking to him/herself…not outloud .**

1. **Other characters talking about eachother-**

**Max- “Wouldn’t you be shocked if Kristin had her homework,” Max said to the teacher.**

**Mrs. Smith- “Well, to be honest, yes. Kristin usually loses everything I give her”**

**Types of Characters:**

**Major** ( main)- These characters have good and bad qualities. Their goals, ambitions and values change. If the character evolves ( changes) throughout the book as a result of the going through the journey or the conflict, this is a *DYNAMIC* character. A dynamic character grows or becomes more mature because of a higher understanding of life in some way.

**Protagonist**- always a DYNAMIC character. – main character

The progatonist is the character who changes the most.

**Antagonist**- the character(s) or force that opposed the protagonist.

Sometimes the enemy or the “bad” character. Doesn’t have to be doing something bad, just causing a struggle for the protagonist.

**Minor-** ( flat characters)- Have only one quality that sticks out . They might be a favorite character and likable or they may be mostly bad. The way to tell if a character is a minor character is if they mostly stay the same through the entire book ( one way or another). They do not learn anything about themselves or the world around them, and do not change inside. These characters are called *STATIC* characters.

**Point of View-**

**1st Person-** narrator is a character in the story who can reveal only his/her own personal thoughts. What he or she sees is all we know. First person narrator can’t tell us the thoughts of other characters

***Pronouns used***: I, me, we, us – not in quotes.

**2nd Person-** narrator tells the story to other characters using the word YOU.

***Pronouns used:***  You or your- not in quotes

**3rd person –** narrator is an outsider who can report what is happening.

**Pronouns used:**  Usually the author is telling the story. Anytime we hear from the main character, it’s in quotes. Otherwise, the author uses “he/she/they”

***Conflict-***

The essence of the story. It is the problem, struggle or tension that creates the plot. Without conflict, there would be no story. The protagonist has to go through some sort of conflict during the story. There are **2 basic types, with subcatagories:**

1 . *Inner conflict*: ( sometimes known as *man vs. self* or *character vs. self*. )

A struggle inside the character’s heart and mind usually involving a difficult decision. This is when there is a good voice and a bad voice fighting inside of the character’s mind. Character has two opposing thoughts as to a difficult situation.

2. *External conflict*-

* Character vs Nature- Hatchett- When the character has to fight against the elements of nature
* Character vs. Society- When the character has to fight against laws, school groups or the norms of a culture. Ex- Hunger Games
* Character vs. character- Two characters have tension or a struggle
* Character vs. God/fate- A character is struggling with his faith or with what has been chosen for him by “destiny”

**Theme:**

* The main idea or underlying meaning of a literary work. It is the lesson that can be learned from the story. The theme centers around a lesson about life, or a belief about people . Theme is NOT a rule ( Don’t judge a book by it’s cover). Theme is the author’s belief about an important idea that applies to everyone.
* Theme must:

1. Apply to all people, everywhere in the world.
2. Never mention specific plot elements of a story nor a character’s name.

* To figure out the them, ask yourself :

*How did the main character’s conflict change him/her?*

*How is the main character different because of what he/she has learned from his/her journey? What does the author want me to think about that would make me a better person.*

* Theme is not a rule!

***Not a theme:*** *Never judge a book by it’s cover! ( this is a rule)* ***Theme****: The author wants the reader to explore what happens when someone judges a person based on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ .*

***Not a theme****: Always forgive your friends ( this is a rule) Theme: The author wants the reader to think about how to forgive a friend when it is very difficult.*

***Not a theme****: Never lie. (this is a rule)* ***Theme:*** *The author wants the reader to follow the journey of gaining back trust when one has lied.*

*My example:*