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

Elements of Literature Notes Sheet

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

1. **Setting**

1. **Place:**
2. **Facts necessary** to understand the upcoming story that is about to unfold; the background.

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

1. **Dialogue-**
2. **Inner feelings of characters-**
3. **Other characters talking to eachother-**

**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

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

**2nd Person-** narrator tells the story to other characters using “you”

***Pronouns used:***

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

**Pronouns used:**

***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*. )

2. *External conflict*-

* Character vs Nature
* Character vs. Society
* Character vs. character
* Character vs. God/fate

**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.*