

**INCOMING FRESHMEN**  
**SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT #1: LITERARY ELEMENTS AND TECHNIQUES**  
**(for one choice book)**

**FOLLOW THE DIRECTIONS FOR EACH OF THE 10 LITERARY TERMS. THIS ASSIGNMENT IS DUE ON THE FIRST DAY OF CLASSES (SEPTEMBER 6, 2011). IT WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AFTER THIS FIRST CLASS. NOT HAVING IT ON DAY ONE WILL RESULT IN A ZERO ON THE ASSIGNMENT.**

- 1.) **Narrator**- Indicate who the narrator of the story is and whether this narrator is telling the story from a first person point of view or from a third person point of view. Then, record one sentence from the text that demonstrates this perspective.
- 2.) **Setting**- Record a sentence (or sentences) from the text that indicates the time and place in which the story takes place.
- 3.) **Protagonist**- Explain who the protagonist is and what kind of struggle he/she experiences and/or what change he/she goes through.
- 4.) **Antagonist**- Explain who the antagonist is and in what ways he/she struggles with or challenges the protagonist.
- 5.) **Exposition**- Describe the portion of the book that helps the reader to understand the background or situation in which the work is set. Record one sentence from this exposition, and explain how it helps the reader to understand the background of the story.
- 6.) **Rising Action**- Describe the events in the story that move the plot forward. Make sure to include the conflict (the struggle between opposing forces).
- 7.) **Conflict**- Explain whether or not the conflict is internal (occurring within a character) or external (occurring between characters or between a character and an abstraction such as nature or fate). If it is internal, indicate the character who struggles within. If it is an external conflict, indicate with what or whom the character struggles.
- 8.) **Climax**- Describe the high point, or turning point, in the story. Explain why you think it is the most intense point of the story.
- 9.) **Falling Action**- Describe the action that occurs after the climax. Explain how conflicts are resolved and/or how mysteries are solved.
- 10.) **Resolution**- Describe the portion of the story where the problem is resolved. Indicate whether or not you think it brings the story to a satisfactory ending. Explain your reasoning.

**NOTES:**

- Write in COMPLETE sentences.
- YOU MUST TYPE YOUR WORK. Create your own chart based on the sample provided, or download the chart from the English Department's web page ([www.wakefield.k12.ma.us](http://www.wakefield.k12.ma.us) -> Wakefield High -> Departments -> English -> Summer Reading Lists). You do not necessarily have to put your work in text boxes, but you must answer all parts for each literary term. Writing your responses in paragraph form without boxes, for example, is acceptable.
- Double-space your work. Use a font style of Times or Times New Roman and a font size no larger than 12 points.
- PROOFREAD. NO SPELLING ERRORS.

## **NOTES (continued):**

- Follow directions.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the 10 literary terms.
- Convince your English teacher that you read the book. Be thorough in all of your descriptions and explanations.
- Complete this assignment for a work of *fiction*. You will probably have difficulty completing this assignment based on a work of nonfiction, a book of poetry, or a graphic novel. If you choose one of these books, use it for the second assignment that your English teacher will give you at the beginning of the school year.
- EVERYTHING should be in your own words (except for the parts that you record verbatim from the text). Include only original ideas! No ideas should come from SparkNotes, for example.
- Put quotation marks around words and passages that you record verbatim from the text. Also, include the page number in parentheses at the end of any quoted material in the following way: ...” (21).
- Study the following chart in order to better understand the terms **before** reading the book so that you know what you are looking for in the text. Take notes on parts of the book that provide evidence of the literary terms. This will help you when completing the chart.

### **LITERARY TERMS**

<b>NARRATOR-</b> the voice telling the story <u>first person point of view:</u> the narrator uses the pronouns <i>I</i> and <i>we</i> and may take place in the action; <u>third person point of view:</u> the narrator uses pronouns <i>he</i> , <i>she</i> , and <i>they</i> and does not take part in the action	<b>RIISING ACTION-</b> the events in a story that move the plot forward; involves conflicts and complications and builds toward the climax of the story
<b>SETTING-</b> the time and place in which the action of the story occurs (Sometimes, this may not be stated explicitly, so you have to look for details that suggest a particular time and/or place.)	<b>CONFLICT-</b> the struggle between opposing forces; can be internal (occurring within a character) or external (between characters or between a character and an abstraction such as nature or fate)
<b>PROTAGONIST-</b> the main character who usually experiences some conflict or struggle or who goes through an important change	<b>CLIMAX-</b> the high point, or turning point, in a story; usually the most intense point near the end of the story
<b>ANTAGONIST-</b> the character who struggles with or challenges the protagonist	<b>FALLING ACTION-</b> the action that occurs after the climax; the time when conflicts are resolved and mysteries are solved
<b>EXPOSITION-</b> the portion of a novel or play that helps the reader to understand the background or situation in which the work is set	<b>RESOLUTION-</b> the portion of a story where the problem is resolved; brings the story to a satisfactory ending