

Grade 7 Independent Novel Study

Novel Title: _____ Student Name: _____

Independent Novel Study Expectations:

1. Complete all activities including chapter notes, timeline, final project and activities after varying points in the novel.
2. Make sure that you are following the four key questions and sub questions and that activities show an understanding of this.
3. Attach all assignments behind the correct page in the booklet.
4. Approach the teacher with any questions.
5. Check in with the teacher at assigned spots.

Key Questions:

1. How do differing perspectives on the relationship and experiences shape the narrative's development?

Conflicting viewpoints: Look for moments where characters see events or people differently.

Character reflections: Pay attention to inner thoughts or feelings that reveal how characters view each other and their relationships.

Key turning points: Identify when characters change their perspective or understanding of one another.

Impact on plot: Track how shifts in perspective lead to changes in the story's direction or outcomes.

2. What role does understanding play in the characters' interactions and growth throughout the story?

Misunderstandings: Identify instances where lack of understanding leads to conflict or confusion.

Growth through empathy: Note when characters gain a deeper understanding of each other's emotions or motivations.

Character change: Look for moments when characters develop a better understanding of themselves or others, leading to growth.

Resolution of conflicts: Pay attention to how understanding helps resolve disagreements or challenges between characters.

3. How does the theme influence the characters' decisions and relationships?

Theme-related decisions: Identify key decisions that reflect the central theme(s) of the story.

Character motivations: Look for how characters' actions or choices are influenced by the theme (e.g., love, identity, change, etc.).

Relationships affected by theme: Track how the theme affects the dynamics between characters (e.g., does the theme of loyalty strengthen or weaken relationships?).

Symbols or motifs related to theme: Make note of recurring symbols or motifs that reinforce the theme and its impact on decisions and relationships.

4. In what ways does the setting of the story contribute to the overall themes and character development?

Physical setting: Observe how the location (e.g., town, house, school) influences the plot or character actions.

Cultural/social context: Take note of the cultural, social, or historical setting and how it shapes characters' behavior and decisions.

Mood and atmosphere: Consider how the setting creates mood (e.g., isolation, tension, freedom) and supports the story's themes.

Setting and character growth: Identify moments where the setting challenges or helps characters evolve.

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Before beginning to read your novel, please complete the following planning pages.

A. Answer the following questions about your novel choice

a. What key concepts within this novel made you want to read it?

b. Why did you choose this novel instead of another one?

c. What do you hope to learn or experience by reading this book?

d. Do you have any personal connections (text to self, text to text, or text to world) that you can think of for the novel?

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Character Notes

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Chapter Notes - Record specific information and quotes from the different chapters that relate to the reading questions

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<u>Key Words</u>	<u>Key Words</u>	<u>Key Words</u>	<u>Key Words</u>	<u>Key Words</u>

Chapter Notes - Record specific information and quotes from the different chapters that relate to the reading questions

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<u>Key Words</u>	<u>Key Words</u>	<u>Key Words</u>	<u>Key Words</u>	<u>Key Words</u>

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#	#	#	#	#
<u>Key Words</u>	<u>Key Words</u>	<u>Key Words</u>	<u>Key Words</u>	<u>Key Words</u>

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Differing Perspectives & Narrative Development

How do differing perspectives on relationships and experiences shape the narrative’s development? Before analyzing, keep these key ideas in mind (from the bookmark):

- **Conflicting Viewpoints:** Look for moments where characters see events or people differently.
- **Character Reflections:** Pay attention to inner thoughts or feelings that reveal how characters view each other and their relationships.
- **Key Turning Points:** Identify when characters change their perspective or understanding of one another.
- **Impact on Plot:** Track how shifts in perspective lead to changes in the story’s direction or outcomes.

Activity: Complete the perspective chart

1. Pick at least 4 characters to analyze (including the main character)
2. Pick one key event from the novel (during the second quarter of the novel)
3. **Create a Chart with These Columns:**

Character	Reaction to the event	What this reveals about them	How this shifts their relationship and the story

4. **Write Your Responses in the Chart:**
 - Use evidence from the book (quotes or paraphrased details). Be very detailed.
 - Think about how each character’s reaction helps us understand their values or the society.
 - Explain how their perspective influences the direction of the story

Reflection Questions

- Answer in a few full and detailed sentences: **How does seeing these different perspectives help us understand the development of the story?**

- Answer in a few full and detailed sentences: **How can you connect to the characters or the event?**

Understanding & Character Growth

What role does understanding play in the characters' interactions and growth throughout the story? As you read, focus on how understanding affects the characters:

- **Misunderstandings:** Look for moments where confusion or lack of knowledge leads to conflict.
- **Growth through Empathy:** Identify times when characters gain a deeper understanding of each other's emotions or perspectives.
- **Character Change:** Notice when a character's understanding of themselves or others leads to personal growth.
- **Resolution of Conflicts:** Observe how gaining understanding helps resolve tensions between characters.

Activity: "Through Their Eyes" Diary Entry

Imagine you are a key character from your novel, reflecting on a moment of realization that changes their understanding of the world or their relationships. Choose an event from close to or at the climax of the story.

1. Write Your Character's Internal Thoughts:

Write a diary entry from your chosen character's perspective after a key event that leads to an emotional realization or change in understanding. Focus on how they feel and what they now understand about their world or the people around them.

- How does your character feel after a significant moment of realization?
- What do they now understand about emotions, relationships, or their society that they didn't before?

2. Reflect on the Character's Changing Understanding:

- **Before this moment:** How did the character feel about relationships, emotions, or their world?
- **Now:** What emotions are they experiencing after their realization? (E.g., shock, sadness, frustration, enlightenment)
- **Deeper understanding:** How does this realization shift how they view their world or society?

3. Make a Prediction:

- How might this realization influence the character's future decisions?
- What might they do differently now that they understand something they previously didn't? How might their actions shape the narrative moving forward?

4. Personal Connection Web

- Create a connection web that links the characters thoughts and events to your own life, events in the world, or things that you have read, heard or seen.

Instructions:

1. Plan
2. Write a 1-page journal entry
3. Be detailed
4. Use multiple paragraphs (at least 2) with specific details and evidence from the text including quotes
5. If you did not do so, answer the prediction questions in a separate paragraph. Complete the personal connection diagram.

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6. Write on a separate sheet of paper and put in the correct location in your duotang

Theme’s Influence on Decisions & Relationships

How does the theme influence the characters’ decisions and relationships? As you read, focus on how one theme shapes the main character’s decisions and relationships:

- **Theme-Related Decisions:** Identify moments where the main characters’ choices reflect the central theme.
- **Character Motivations:** Consider how the theme influences their actions—what drives their decisions?
- **Relationships Affected by Theme:** Notice how the them chosen influences and affects their relationships.
- **Symbols or Motifs Related to Theme:** Track recurring images or concepts that reinforce the theme

This activity should be done after reading the climax of the novel.

Activity: Create a Theme Analysis Timeline

Chosen theme: _____

Track how the chosen theme influences the main characters’ decisions and relationships

1. **Create a timeline with key events where the main character’s relationships and decisions are affected by the theme.**
2. **For each event, explain:**
 - **What choice the character faces.**
 - **How the chosen influences the situation.**
 - **How this impacts his relationship with other characters.**
 - Remember to use specific textual evidence including quotes
3. **Final Reflection:**
 - Predict what decision the main character will ultimately make by the end of the book.

- Consider how their experiences and personal growth influence their final choice.

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Setting's Role in Themes & Character Development

In what ways does the setting contribute to the overall themes and character development? As you read, focus on how the setting shapes the story's themes and characters:

- **Physical Setting:** How does the location (town, home, school) influence events and character actions?
- **Cultural/Social Context:** How do the rules, traditions, and expectations of the main character's society shape their decisions?
- **Mood & Atmosphere:** How does the setting create emotions (e.g., tension, isolation, hope) that reinforce key themes?
- **Setting & Character Growth:** How do different settings challenge or help the main character evolve?

Activity: Create a Setting Sketch & Mood Analysis

Compare and contrast two key settings in the novel using visuals and written analysis.

- To be done close to the end of reading the novel
1. Create a side-by-side visual representation of these settings
 2. Write a mood analysis comparing the two settings:
 - How does the physical setting reflect themes?
 - How does the cultural/social setting affect characters?
 - How does the mood shift between the two settings?
 3. Please use a separate sheet of paper and answer these questions using specific textual evidence, paragraphs and details as well as quotes. You should write at least two paragraphs.

Conflict & Rising Action Analysis**Types of Conflict:**

Conflict is a key element in storytelling, driving the plot and shaping character development. Identify the major conflicts in the novel so far and analyze how they have developed. Consider the following types:

1. **Character vs. Character (External Conflict)**
 - This occurs when two or more characters struggle against each other. It could be a physical fight, an argument, a rivalry, or conflicting goals.
 - **Examples:** A hero facing off against a villain, two friends arguing over a betrayal, or a leader and their people disagreeing over a major decision.
2. **Character vs. Society (External Conflict)**
 - This happens when a character is in conflict with the rules, beliefs, or expectations of their society. The character may challenge unfair laws, question traditions, or struggle to fit into a world that doesn't accept them.
 - **Examples:** A character rebelling against an oppressive government, someone fighting against discrimination, or a person struggling to follow social norms.
3. **Character vs. Self (Internal Conflict)**
 - This is an internal struggle within a character's mind. It often involves difficult choices, self-doubt, fear, guilt, or moral dilemmas.
 - **Examples:** A character struggling to forgive someone, deciding between doing the right thing or the easy thing, or overcoming personal fears.
4. **Character vs. Nature (External Conflict)**
 - This conflict occurs when a character must survive or overcome forces of nature, such as extreme weather, natural disasters, or dangerous environments.
 - **Examples:** A character stranded in a snowstorm, a group trying to escape a sinking ship, or someone surviving in the wilderness.

This assignment is to be done before the reading of the last chapter.

1. **Conflict Development Chart:** Create a chart with the following columns on a separate sheet of paper:

Conflict Type	Characters Involved	How It Has Developed (Rising Action)	Possible Resolutions
Example: Character vs. Character	Protagonist vs. Antagonist	Increasing tension through arguments, physical confrontation, misunderstandings	A final battle, reconciliation, a betrayal

2. Fill in the table based on the novel
3. Use specific textual evidence (quotes or detailed descriptions) to support your analysis.

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Bonus (Creative Option):

Write an alternate ending that resolves the main conflict differently. Try to incorporate suspense, foreshadowing, and strong descriptive language to engage the reader.

Final Novel Project

Choose one of the following projects to demonstrate your understanding of the novel you have read. Each project must connect to the essential reading questions and show your comprehension of key themes, conflicts, and character development. At the end of your project, include a written reflection (two paragraphs) explaining how your project relates to the essential reading questions.

1. Movie Promotional Poster

Imagine your novel is being adapted into a movie, and you have been chosen to design the promotional poster. Your poster must include:

- The title and author of the novel
- The names of the producer and director
- A listing of the main characters and the contemporary actors who would play them
- Graphics that reflect key themes and character relationships
- A brief written movie synopsis on the front of your poster

2. Garbology: A Character's Story Through Their Trash

Create a garbage can that represents one of the main characters. Fill it with at least five objects (pieces of "garbage") that symbolize different points in the novel. Attach a tag to each item explaining its significance and how it reflects the character's experiences or development.

3. Rap: The Character's Perspective

Create and present a rap from the perspective of a main character. Your rap should showcase:

- Their viewpoint on a specific event or the novel as a whole
- An understanding of the novel's themes
- Use of figurative language to enhance meaning

4. Trivia Board Game

Design a board game that tests players' knowledge of the novel. Your game must include:

- A game board
- Player pieces
- A minimum of 20 trivia questions about key events, themes, and characters
- A rule sheet explaining how to play

5. Comic Strip

Design an eight-panel comic strip that illustrates an important scene from the novel. Include dialogue and visuals that highlight the significance of this moment. Provide a one-page explanation of why this scene is crucial and how it contributes to the novel's conflict and resolution.

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6. Book Jacket Redesign

Create a new book cover that effectively represents your novel. Your book jacket must include:

- A front cover with the title, author, and an original illustration
- A spine with the title and author's name
- A back cover with a summary of the novel and a quote that captures an important theme

7. Playlist Cover and Soundtrack

Choose four songs that reflect different moments, themes, or character experiences in the novel. Include:

- A playlist cover
- Links to the songs
- A two-page written explanation of how each song relates to the novel

8. Seeing Both Sides

Create two posters that show events from two different characters' perspectives. Then, write two paragraphs explaining how their viewpoints shape the story.

9. Walk in Their Shoes: Dual Diary Entries

Write two diary entries: one from one character's perspective and one from another character's point of view, about the same event. Compare their perspectives and explain what they misunderstood about each other.

10. Theme Poster

Create a visual representation of a major theme in the novel. Include phrases, symbols, or illustrations that reflect how this theme influences the characters and plot. Write two paragraphs explaining your choices.

11. Map Your Story

Design a detailed map of important locations from the novel. Annotate each location with notes explaining its significance to the characters and events.

12. Draw Their Journey

Illustrate three key moments where a character learns something important. Write a paragraph for each, explaining how their understanding changed.

13. Character Changes Timeline

Create a timeline showing five significant moments of character growth. Include drawings and explanations of what the character learned at each stage.

14. Character Evolution Display

Design a visual display showing how a main character changes throughout the novel. Use quotes, drawings, and descriptions to highlight key moments of transformation.

15. Personal Choice Project

Come up with your own project idea (e.g., podcast, play, puppet show, diorama). Get approval from your teacher before starting. Your project must include a two-paragraph explanation connecting it to the essential reading questions.

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Final Project Instructions:

1. Project chosen: _____
2. Complete do, get, done chart
3. Develop a personal project timeline

Date	Tasks	Accomplished	Next Steps

4. Complete the daily check ins
5. Complete planning
6. Complete rough draft
7. Complete good copy
8. Plan and write two paragraphs
9. Submit project

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Novel Study Rubric

Criteria	4	3	2	1
Understanding of Different Perspectives (Reading)	Provides a deep understanding of how different points of view affect the story, giving insightful inferences and providing explanations from the text.	Understands how different viewpoints add to the story, giving reasons supported by diverse examples from the text.	Identifies how different viewpoints affect the story, some explanations are supported by general text references	Identifies a viewpoint within the story with little reference to the text.
Role of Understanding in Character Growth (Reading)	Describes clearly how understanding shapes how characters communicate and develop, using specific examples from the story.	Describes how understanding influences how characters interact and change, giving examples from the text.	Recognises how understanding impacts how characters interact, but with only a few examples with a few explanations.	Identifies how understanding impacts a character and how they change.
Contribution of Setting to Themes and Character Development (Reading)	Demonstrates a clear understanding of how the setting influences characters actions, relationships, and themes through the novel.	Shows understanding of some way in which the setting impact's themes and character developments, with examples supported by text.	Provides an analysis of the settings impact, with some explanations.	Identifies a theme with a reference to a setting in the novel.
Themes influences on decisions and relationships (Reading)	Offers clear explanations on how the story's main themes influence characters action and interactions from the novel.	Provides and identifies how themes affect characters with evidence from the novel.	Offers analysis of how themes impact the story, some explanations are supported by general text references	Provides and identifies how themes influence the story, with explanations

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<p>Representing Ideas</p>	<p>Ideas are expressed with exceptional clarity and creativity. The work demonstrates a deep understanding of themes, characters, and events. Visuals and written components effectively enhance the message. Evidence from the text is well-integrated and insightful.</p>	<p>Ideas are clearly expressed with some creativity. The work demonstrates a solid understanding of themes, characters, and events. Visuals and written components support the message well. Evidence from the text is relevant and supports the analysis.</p>	<p>Ideas are expressed with some clarity but require more evidence to represent the themes, characters, and events. Visuals and written components use general details. Some textual evidence is included.</p>	<p>Represents some ideas from novel by referring to general concepts from the novel.</p>
<p>Managing Information</p>	<p>Information is well-organized, thorough, and presented logically. All tasks are completed with attention to detail. Research and textual evidence are thoughtfully applied.</p>	<p>Information is organized and presented in a logical manner. Most tasks are completed thoroughly. Research and textual evidence are relevant.</p>	<p>Information is somewhat organized but may lack clarity. Research and textual evidence are present for some components.</p>	<p>Information requires further development. Little textual evidence is included.</p>
<p>Clarity & Development of Ideas (Writing)</p>	<p>Ideas are well-developed, clearly stated, and effectively supported with evidence. Interpretations are insightful and justified with strong textual support.</p>	<p>Ideas are clear and supported with appropriate evidence. Interpretations are justified with some textual support.</p>	<p>Ideas show promise and emerging depth but would benefit from further clarity or stronger supporting evidence. Interpretations are forming and could be expanded with additional justification.</p>	<p>Ideas are beginning to take shape and show potential. Further development and supporting evidence will strengthen interpretations.</p>

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<p>Organization & Coherence (Writing)</p>	<p>Writing is well-organized with a logical structure. Effective use of paragraphs, transitions, and order of ideas enhances clarity.</p>	<p>Writing is organized with a clear structure. Some transitions and paragraphing are used effectively.</p>	<p>Writing has a developing structure and shows an effort at organization. Strengthening transitions and logical progression will enhance clarity.</p>	<p>Writing is beginning to show structure, with ideas taking form. Focusing on organization and connections between ideas will improve coherence.</p>
<p>Narrative & Literary Techniques (Writing)</p>	<p>Strong use of suspense, foreshadowing, dialogue, and description enhances the narrative. Effective figurative language creates vivid imagery.</p>	<p>Adequate use of literary techniques such as suspense, dialogue, and description. Figurative language is used but could be more impactful.</p>	<p>Some attempt at literary techniques, but they may be inconsistent or underdeveloped. Figurative language is limited.</p>	<p>Written work requires more narrative techniques through description, dialogue, or figurative language.</p>
<p>Grammar & Sentence Structure (Writing)</p>	<p>Sentence structure is varied and complex, with correct use of subordinate clauses, subject-verb agreement, and pronouns. Proper punctuation is used throughout.</p>	<p>Sentence structure is mostly correct, with minor errors in agreement, pronouns, or punctuation. Some complexity in structure is evident.</p>	<p>Written work is developing, with opportunities to refine sentence structure, agreement, and punctuation for greater clarity.</p>	<p>Written work is developing, with minor grammatical and punctuation errors. Refining these areas will enhance clarity.</p>
<p>Revision & Editing (Writing)</p>	<p>Writing has been carefully revised for coherence, clarity, and conciseness. Strong introductions and conclusions enhance the text.</p>	<p>Writing has been revised for coherence, but some areas could be refined further. Introductions and conclusions are present but could be stronger.</p>	<p>With further revision and editing, the writing will achieve greater coherence and clarity.</p>	<p>Writing shows potential and would benefit from revision to improve clarity and flow.</p>
<p>Use of Textual Evidence & Citations (Writing)</p>	<p>Quotations and paraphrased details are integrated effectively with proper punctuation and citation conventions.</p>	<p>Quotations and textual details are used appropriately, though citation conventions may have minor errors.</p>	<p>Textual evidence is included and can be strengthened by refining accuracy and integration.</p>	<p>Incorporating more textual evidence will strengthen and support the ideas presented.</p>

Final Novel Study Checklist

Put a check mark beside each item as you complete it in order to ensure that all of the work is done.

1. I picked a novel
2. I read the instructions (page 1)
3. I reviewed the rubric before beginning and throughout the study (pages 23-25)
4. I referred to the guiding questions throughout the reading (page 1)
5. I completed the prereading questions (page 2)
6. I filled in my reading timeline before I started (page 3)
7. I updated my reading timeline throughout the novel (page 3)
8. I completed detailed character notes using specific evidence throughout the novel (pages 4 and 5)
9. I filled in the chapter notes with specific details and citations for each chapter (pages 6 – 9)
10. I completed the *World Building or Character Exploration* activity after reading the first quarter of the novel (pages 10 - 11)
11. I completed the *Differing Perspectives and Narrative Development* activity after reading the second quarter of the novel (page 12)
12. I completed the *Understanding Character Growth* activity after reading the climax of the story (page 13)
13. I completed the *Theme's influence on Decision and Relationships* activity after reading the climax of the story (pages 14 – 15)
14. I completed the *Conflict and Rising Action Analysis* activity after reading the last chapter of the story (pages 16 – 17)
15. I finished reading the novel
16. I read the instructions for the final project (pages 18 – 20)
17. I picked a final activity (pages 18 – 19)
18. I created a project timeline that I updated daily based on what is accomplished (page 20)
19. I filled in my do, get, done planning pages and started with the Done section (page 21)
20. I created the project
21. I did a good copy of the project
22. I edited the project
23. I wrote and edited my self-reflection (page 22)
24. I ensured that all assignments were put in the appropriate sections of the duotang
25. I completed the checklist
26. I handed in the duotang to my teacher