

Literary Reduction Sheet

Name _____

Title:

Author:

Genre: *Novel, drama, epic poem? Type of fiction?*

Point of View: *1st person, 3rd person
(limited? Omniscient?)*

Setting/Atmosphere:

Where/When does the story take place AND how does the setting create mood or reflect some other aspect of the author's purpose?

Plot development – (include specific details)

*Do not try to fit in the entire plot. Choose plot elements that connect to **themes** and note **HOW** they connect to the **theme**.*

DO include elements from beginning, middle, and end.

*One way to approach this is to choose one conflict (that leads to theme) and include plot details that show how that conflict **develops** and **resolves**.*

Major/Minor Characters:

*Like “plot,” choose those characters that help you see the **THEME**. How do they connect?*

Symbols/Irony – Connect to Themes

*Choose symbols that you can explain AND connect to **theme**. It's not enough to say that “Exhibit A” is a symbol; you'll have to explain **HOW**. Irony often gives us insight into author's attitude—how does the irony in your text do that?*

Holistic Interpretation (summary of the story – 1 sentence) *Your summary should lead to your **theme** as well.*

Significance of Title: *By “significance” we mean, “How does the title of the book help readers see important aspects of the story – most notably **theme**?”*

Themes: *Don't try to make this a “lesson.” What facets of the **human condition** does the author deal with? What questions does the work raise? What observations does the author advance **about humanity**?*

Three (3) significant quotes (quote, why quote is significant)

*Choose quotations that give insight into the **THEME** and/or to **CHARACTER** development. Choose quotations that you think “speak” for the entire novel.*