

Independent Novel Study Character Sketch

Objective: After reading a fictional novel students will demonstrate their understanding of the novel's theme by writing about the main character.

The theme is the author's message about people and/or society. It goes beyond the text and relates to our world. The theme of a novel is often developed through the main character. Looking at the character's traits, how he or she evolves, and how they overcome conflict can help a reader interpret the theme in of a story.

Task: In 2-3 paragraphs write a descriptive and critical character sketch. Things you may want to talk about:

- The characters traits you admire/hate
- How the character changed over the course of the book
- What the character learned/failed to learn
- Why the character is relatable/not relatable
- Compare the character to a character from another story
- Consider how your actions or choices would be different if you were this character
- Is your character heroic or tragic
- What advice you would offer this character
- Why do you think the author developed the character the way they did
- Whether you like the way the author developed the character
- How does the character handle conflict
- Why do you like/dislike the character

You will need to support what you say with examples from the book. These can be quotes, paraphrases, or brief summaries of events.

	Not meeting	Basic	Good	Excellent
Manages and evaluates information	Does not support with evidence from text or the evidence is very stretched, and poorly chosen	Attempts to support with evidence from text but evidence is simple, somewhat stretched, and/or could be more thoughtful	Supporting evidence is thoughtful and used appropriately in the writing	Supporting evidence is used effectively in the writing and shows excellent critical thinking
Writing	The writing needs improvement in organization, sentence structure, and/or adding enough detail to communicate ideas	The writing's organization, sentences structure and detail are sufficient but can be improved by adding variety to syntax, improving vocabulary, and adding more details	The writing is coherent, well organized and communicates some thoughtful ideas	The writing is exceptional, thoughtful and contains only a few minor errors
Reading	The insights into the character are too simplistic and not relevant	The insights into the character are straightforward and sufficient.	The insights into the character are interesting and believable. Some critical thinking is evident	The insights into character demonstrate significant and exceptional critical thinking

