

INDEPENDENT BOOK STUDY - QUADRANT I



After you have marked your quadrants, follow these directions to guide yourself through a number of activities to complete in Quadrant I of your book. You may want to add more charts or lists, drawings, or other items depending on how your book is organized and what you notice all on your own.

REMEMBER: **The goal of a novel study is to do more than just read the book.** To study literature, we need to really dig deeply into the author's craft and try to figure out why he or she chose to include the information they did. It's all there for a reason, and it's our job to interpret it like the students of literature that we are. Analysis, questioning, and then putting it all together, synthesizing, is what this is about! Literature scholars also spend time discussing their stories with other scholars, so be sure to regularly blog about

your book. And take time to read and respond to what others are saying about theirs. That's how we can learn from each other. Enjoy your novel!

BEFORE READING:

1. Create a folder or binder for yourself where you can store all of your CIA papers for this novel.
2. Read the blurb carefully. Create PAGE 1. Record the following, using just the information from the blurb, the title, and the cover:
 1. Main character (who you assume it is at this point)
 2. Secondary or supporting characters
 3. Setting
 4. Problem
 5. Your prediction about how the story will play out. What do you think will happen based on the info you've already read and what you know about this type of book?
3. Create PAGE 2. This will be your settings page. It might be an actual map, either one that you download off the internet, or one you draw. You might even ask to make a copy of one that's already in your book so you can mark it up if you want. For some stories, a list of settings and descriptions is enough. You'll need to judge what's best for your story. As you read, you will need to add to or change your map based on new information. You might even choose to make a whole new map if there is a drastic setting change. HINT: If your story is set in a real place, collect a little research about the place. A street map of a town, or a map of a specific country can be very helpful. Are there photos or drawings you can look at about the place where your story is set? Add these artifacts to your folder or binder.
4. Create PAGE 3. This is your characters page. You may organize it however you wish. Maybe a t-chart works for you, or you might want to figure out another way to organize information about characters and their traits. Remember that it's the change in the main character's biggest traits that will eventually reveal the turning point to you!

AS YOU READ:

1. Continually update pages 2 and 3 with new information. You might do this as you read, or you might choose to use sticky notes to mark pages you want to revisit after you read.
2. Pay attention to trends. They may be revealed through the repeated use of specific words (like in Misty...the author keeps using the word "freedom")

over and over), or through big ideas that keep popping up (like in Hachiko...there was a continual return to the idea of growing up). As soon as you start to see a trend, begin PAGE 4. This will be your place to record new trends, as well as evidence to support the trends you're already seeing.

3. Start PAGE 5. Page 5 will contain a list of vocabulary words. These might be words that are confusing to you (look up their definitions and write them down), words that seem important for some reason (record why you think they are important and where they are located in the book), or descriptive words/phrases the author uses that really resonate with you.
4. When you're about 1/2-3/4 of the way done with Quadrant 1, take the time to draw a picture of the main character or characters. This isn't a silly cartoon. It should be a serious effort to create a picture of the characters you are focusing on. Add details from the story so your character is as close to the descriptions as you can get. How can you show your characters' personalities through a drawing with NO WORDS? This activity will help you focus in on those character traits and may reveal something you hadn't thought of before. Periodically revisit your drawing to add or change things. This is PAGE 6.
5. For some stories, this is also a good time to start drawing a family tree or relationship tree, particularly if there are multiple characters or strange relationships. How can you illustrate relationships to help you keep track of who is related to whom, and in what way? Often, it's the relationships between characters where the author hides clues to the theme.

AFTER COMPLETING QUADRANT I

At the end of Quadrant I, good readers stop to summarize their story. This helps us focus our thoughts and synthesize what we've learned at the beginning. You may choose how you want to create your summary (written, comic strip, poster, or something else), and may be as creative as you wish, but your summary **MUST** include:

- title and author
- main character(s)
- 3-5 big ideas from the first quadrant that really relate the essence of the story (avoid details)
- your prediction about what you think will happen next and the reason why you think this

PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR SUMMARY TO ME FOR FEEDBACK!