

## Generic Novel Lesson 1

### Materials Needed:

- ✎ Pen or pencil
- 📖 The Novel you have selected to read
- or {
  - Highlighter
  - Post-it® notes

Congratulations! You have chosen a novel that you would like to read. Hopefully this will be a rewarding experience for you. You will be doing this course on your chosen novel as a semi-independent study. Along the way you will be provided with pre-reading activities. These will get you ready to read a portion of your novel. There will also be organizational activities which will help you understand how the author of your book is creating the story's plot. In addition, writing assignments will be included for you to complete after you read.

### Becoming an active reader

Reading this novel independently will force you to stretch as a reader. You will have to be an *active* reader. As an active reader, you will need to:

- ✓ ask yourself questions,
- ✓ note words you want to add to your vocabulary,
- ✓ highlight passages that are important or noteworthy,
- ✓ make notes to yourself in the margins or on Post-it® notes.



\* Note: If the book does not belong to you and must be returned to your library, school, teacher or friend, use Post-it® notes so you don't mark on the book itself.

**You are the teacher**

You are going to be both the teacher and the student. You will have to think, “What questions did my teachers ask about a novel or story when we read one in school? What types of assignments did my teachers ask me to complete?” You will need to set tasks for yourself. If you do this, with the support of your mentor, you will have a good learning experience.

**Links to later learning**

If you are thinking about going to college, what you are doing is what you have to do on your own as you read a novel for a college class. A teacher will discuss the book in class, but you will do the reading on your own. When you read a novel for pleasure, you still need to be an active reader. Active reading leads to better understanding of what you have read.

***Before you read***

**Getting to know your book and its author**

Think about why you chose this book. What was it that made you say, “I’d like to read this book”? Maybe someone you know read it and said you would like it. Maybe you have read another book you liked by this author. Maybe it is a mystery, romance or adventure story and you like that kind of book. Maybe you enjoyed a movie or video version of the story. Maybe you liked the picture on the cover. Or perhaps the title alone intrigued you.

Explain here why you chose this particular book:

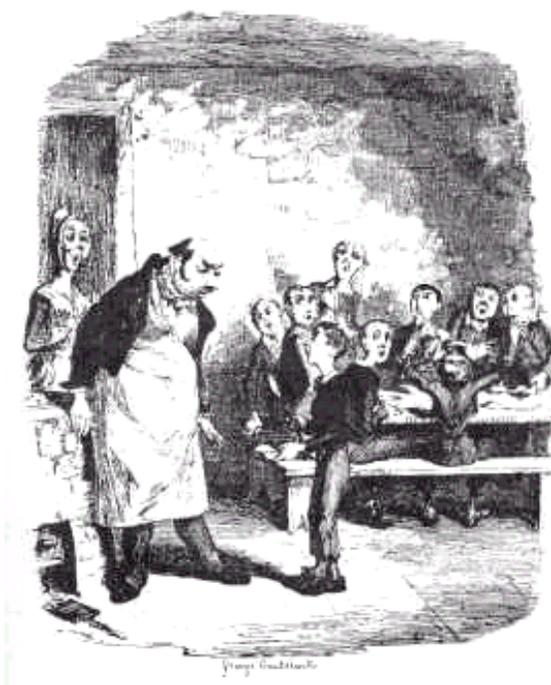
Title:
Author:
Why I chose this book:

Now look at your book. Read the title. If you have a paperback copy, the publishers usually put a little commercial for the book on the back cover. Read that. Hard cover books usually have a paper jacket with quotes from reviews of the book or a brief overview of the story. They both usually have a picture that gives a clue to the story. From these hints what do you think the story will be about?

My prediction:

Next, try to find out something about the author of your book. This information may be right in the book. If it isn't, visit the local library or look for information on the Internet by typing the author's name into any search engine. You can also ask the librarian to help you research your author. Knowing about the author helps you understand the story.

For example, if you read Charles Dickens' novel Oliver Twist, it helps to know that Dickens was born in England in 1812 and died in 1870. His family was poor and his father was sent to prison for not paying their bills. Dickens was left alone at the age of twelve and had to work in a factory. After his father got out of prison, Dickens was able to go back to school. Many of his books deal with the problems of poor and lonely children. They take place in England. He never forgot his own experience, and he wanted people to know about the problems of the poor and to make changes. Charles Dickens, in some ways, is Oliver Twist.



Answer the following questions about the author of the book you will read.

Full name \_\_\_\_\_

Place and date of birth \_\_\_\_\_

Place and date of death  
or current residence \_\_\_\_\_

Tell a little about your author's life.


What other books has the author written?


What kind of books does your author write?




**End of Lesson 1**