

Lesson 2

Materials Needed:

✍ Pen or pencil

📖 Journal

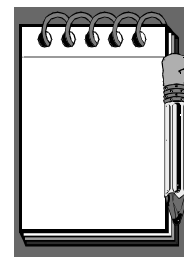
📖 The Novel you have selected to read

or { Highlighter
Post-it® notes

Journal Entry

Choose **ONE** of the following topics and write in your Journal for about ten minutes.

- A. What kind of story do you most like to read?
- B. Tell about the last book you read and enjoyed.
- C. What kind of story do you LEAST like to read and why?



Literary Elements

At the end of this lesson you will begin to fill in a Story Summary about the book you are reading. In order to do that, here is some of the information you will need to gather as you read. These words are included in the Glossary of Literary Terms at the end of this Unit and will also be found on your final test.

❖ Exposition

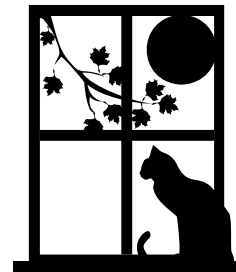
Early in your reading you will get information about things that have happened before the beginning of the story. The exposition part of a novel will tell you about the history of the area where the story takes place, background of the people you meet, or events that have taken place prior to the start of the novel. This information is sometimes called the back story or set-up for what will take place in the novel.

❖ **Characters**

In the beginning chapters of a book, the author introduces the main characters. You will need to get to know these characters and try to understand how they think and act throughout the book. You will want to find out what they look like, what they act like and how other people act toward them. You will meet characters you both like and dislike. Ask yourself why. Is it the way the author describes the characters, or do you have your own reasons?

❖ **Setting**

The author will introduce you to the setting of the story. This is the time and location that the story takes place. The author usually gives you enough information to understand what is happening at the time, the life-style of the characters, and what the location is like.



❖ **Plot**

The author will also introduce the plot of the story. The plot is the sequence of related events that make up a story. Usually your main character has a problem. You will find out what this is. You will find out what the main character thinks about the problem and what he or she plans to do. Each chapter adds a little more to the story. There may be twists and turns. You may meet more characters who change the story. The author may add surprises to keep you guessing about the ending. There will be many conflicts or sources of tension in your plot. Major conflicts include:

- ✓ person against person,
- ✓ person against nature, and
- ✓ person against him or herself.

❖ **Mood**

The author will also create a mood. The mood is the feeling the author wants you to have as you read. If the problem is a mystery, the author may create a scary mood. The author wants you to be a little frightened and curious. If the story is a romance, the author may create a happier mood. He wants you to be happy with the main character. There are times when the mood may be humorous and the author wants you to laugh. The author creates a mood to help you get involved in the story.

❖ **Theme**

The theme is the message that the author wants to share with the reader. Often one character represents the author. His or her actions represent the author's feelings or beliefs. The setting and the plot may support that viewpoint. For example, during a story the main character steals, is caught, has to pay back the money, and begins to change. Perhaps the theme is that people can learn from mistakes or that through dealing with trouble, people can change.

Reading Assignment

This unit is designed to have you do the lessons as you read through the story. As a guideline for reading your novel, divide the total number of pages by 5. If there are 200 pages, that would give you 40 pages per section. Each section would be one fifth (1/5) or 20% of the book. Of course, you will not want to stop just before the end of a chapter or just after you have started a new one. In the same regard, if you have taken on a novel of 1,000 pages, 200 pages per section would be unreasonable. Use your judgement. It is important that you enjoy the process—the journey through the pages. As long as you remain an *active* reader, the actual number of pages you read each time is a small detail. Use the work sheet on the next page to set your reading goals.

Read the first fifth +/- of your book. As you read, make notes to yourself in the book. 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. Highlight or put a Post-it® "flag" whenever you meet a new character. In addition, make note of new words to add to your vocabulary.

When you have finished reading, start to fill in the different sections of the Story Summary sheet at the end of this Unit. Take a look at it now to see what you will want to be looking for as you read.

Reading Goals Work Sheet

Number of pages in my novel $X =$ _____

Divide by 5 ($X \div 5$) or $\frac{X}{5}$

Or multiply by 20% (.20)

(work space)

Pages per section? _____

How is the novel divided? Chapters Sections Books Other _____

How many? _____

My plan for reading this novel is to divide it into _____ sections in the following way:
(Tell the specific breakdown of how much of the novel you plan to read for each portion mentioned in the lessons.)



End of Lesson 2