

Lesson 4

Materials Needed:

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

Reading assignment

Read the next fifth of your selected novel, but first read ahead through this lesson to find out what you will want to keep in mind as you read. You will also want to add to your Story Summary sheet and continue to find new words to add to your vocabulary.

Character study

What have you learned about the main characters in your novel?

You want to consider:

- what the characters look like
- what they do
- what they think and say
- what others think and say about them



The protagonist is the main character in the story about whom the reader is most concerned. The prefix “pro-” means “for.” You want good things to happen to this character. You want him or her to win, to come out on top. This is usually a character who is striving to accomplish something. In the novel you are reading—

Who is the protagonist? _____

What is this character striving to accomplish? _____

What does the character do in trying to accomplish this? _____

What do other characters say or think about the protagonist? _____

The antagonist is a main character who is creating a problem for the protagonist. The prefix “anti” means “against.” The antagonist is against the protagonist. He, she or it is the bad guy and is causing a problem. The conflict or tension between the antagonist and the protagonist is the central focus of the plot. **Note:** The antagonist is not always a person. The antagonist might be an animal, a force of nature as in Ernest Hemingway’s The Old Man and the Sea, or perhaps an internal struggle with emotions like hate, fear or loneliness.

In the novel you are reading—

Who or what is the antagonist? _____

If the antagonist can talk, what does this character say? _____

What does the character do? _____

What do other characters say or think about the antagonist? _____

Supporting characters are the other players that the author invents to add richness to the story. They are there to speak with the main characters. They help move the plot along. Often the way the antagonist and protagonist interact with supporting characters tells us a lot about those main characters. From the novel you are reading, select two supporting characters and answer the following questions:

Character #1—Name _____

What does this character say that adds to the plot? _____

What does he/she do? _____

What do other characters say or think about this character? _____

Do you like this character? _____ Why or why not? _____

Character #2—Name _____

What does this character say that adds to the plot? _____

What does he/she do? _____

What do other characters say or think about this character? _____

Do you like this character? _____ Why or why not? _____

Story Summary

Continue filling in the Story Summary pages at the end of this Unit. Be sure to add any new characters that appeared in your most recent reading, along with a brief description of how they fit in the story. Also add any events that happened in the section you just read in your novel. These summary notes will help you in your review before your final test on this Unit.

What do you see?

A good author makes it easy for the reader to visualize or imagine the setting and characters in the story. On the next page, draw a picture of your favorite character or an element in the story setting. Or if you prefer, find a picture in a magazine or newspaper that reminds you of some element of the novel—a person, location, vehicle, type of work or anything that you can relate to the story. Paste the picture on the next page after you make sure it is alright for you to cut it out of the magazine or newspaper. Once you have finished with your drawing or pasting, use the space provided on the page that follows to briefly tell how the picture compares to the author’s description or the image you had in your mind.



Have fun and be creative! It doesn’t need to be a masterpiece. Just use another part of your brain.

Draw or paste your picture here.

Now tell what you like about the picture. How does it go with the story? How does it compare with the image you had in mind or the author's description?



End of Lesson 4