

## English First Peoples 12: Novel Study Guidelines

I highly encourage you to choose a novel that you're interested in and that you want to read. Here are the guidelines for the novel study, should you choose a novel outside of the typical selections.

*\*\*\* Paragraphs are typically 4-6 sentences*

### 1) Character Analysis:

Choose at least 3 characters from the novel (the important ones). Write a detailed analysis of the character (at least 2 paragraphs each): what is their personality like? How do they interact with the other characters? What motivates them? What is their role in the story?

### 2) Setting:

In 2-3 paragraphs describe the setting of the story. This includes **where** the story takes place (provide details, don't just write "Vancouver"), **when** the story takes place, and the **context** (eg. "it's WW II, Germany has just invaded Poland, the world is on the edge of all-out warfare).

### 3) Summary:

You don't need to recite the entire novel, just 3-4 paragraphs where you describe the plot of the story. You are basically describing the book to someone who has never read it, but not boring them to death with the details.

### 4) Conflict:

At the heart of every story is a conflict, dilemma, or problem. What is the central conflict in your story? Conflict is often categorized as: 1) person vs person (a conflict involving two or more people) 2) person vs self (an internal conflict, the character is battling themselves) 3) person vs environment (character is in conflict with society, their environment, their circumstances). Identify and describe the conflict in your story in 1-2 paragraphs.

### 5) Themes:

In 3-4 paragraphs, explain the themes or central messages of the story. What is the author trying to tell you? What are the overarching themes of the story? Explore at least 2 different messages or themes that you took away from the story.

### 6) Reaction:

This is the most important component of the novel study. This is where you tell me about your reaction to the story. What did you like about the book? What did you dislike about the book? Do you strongly agree or disagree with any of the messages or themes in the book? Did the book speak to your own experiences in life? You can be creative here, but I want you to tell me about how you personally feel about the book in 4-5 paragraphs. If you need more guidance, consider these questions: did you strongly like or dislike any of the characters? Did any of the characters remind you of people you know? Do you have any questions for the author?