

Illuminating Literature:

When Worlds Collide

Novel Notebook

For Christian
High Schools and
Homeschools

Sharon Watson

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Chapter Art Deco images courtesy of Dover Publications.



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Pudd'nhead Wilson

As you read *Pudd'nhead Wilson*, you'll want to keep your Novel Notebook handy. Here's a list of what you'll be looking for and recording. Include page numbers:

- Any of Mr. Wilson's witty sayings that you like.
- Two examples of prejudice.
- At least one place where Mark Twain uses foreshadowing.
- Something ironic.
- Any ideas about why *The Tragedy of Pudd'nhead Wilson* is, well, a tragedy for Pudd'nhead Wilson.

During the discussion time you have with your class or reading group, you'll report what you found. Or your teacher may want to look at your Novel Notebook to see your ideas.

Mark any passages in *Pudd'nhead Wilson* you like or don't like, that you find interesting or well written. Or enter them in here for future reference. If you want to remember a long passage, you might want to type it into a special file on your computer instead of using your Novel Notebook. You'll do this activity for each book you read in this course. Why?

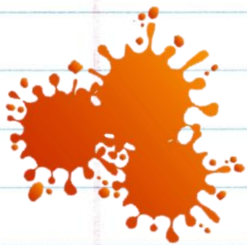
Taking note of interesting, well-written, or super-boring passages makes you a better reader and a better writer. By examining what makes the passage so appealing or appalling, you can delight in the way it was put together, and you can teach yourself how to write effective fiction. Or you can learn how *not* to write!

PROVERBS
Aphorisms Maxims Sayings
Adages



“Nothing so needs reforming as other people’s habits.”
—Pudd’nhead Wilson’s Calendar

Write any of Pudd’nhead Wilson’s witty sayings that you like
and then make up some of your own!



There are plenty of examples of prejudice in *Pudd'nhead Wilson*.
Record two of them here:

1

2.

One example of foreshadowing:

Something ironic:

Opinion:

Why do you think *The Tragedy of Pudd'nhead Wilson* is, well, a tragedy for David Wilson?

I really loved this!!!

Use this page to record any passage, character, event, figurative language, or anything else you liked in *Pudd'nhead Wilson*.

Could've been better!

Use this page to record anything you disliked in *Pudd'nhead Wilson*.



The War of the Worlds

H. G. Wells devoutly believed in the Theory of Evolution. The months he spent studying biology and dissecting all sorts of animals under Professor Huxley affected young Wells profoundly. Charles Darwin had been a frequent speaker at his college but had died two years before Wells attended there. However, Darwin's influence and teaching permeated the classes and the labs. Students and professors felt they were doing groundbreaking work, especially as the evolutionary tree of life was still being developed.

As you read *The War of the Worlds*, make three separate lists in your Novel Notebook. Include the page numbers where you find the information.

List 1: Three passages that show evolutionary thinking

List 2: The main character's reactions to and descriptions of the curate (a clergyman)

List 3: The dangers or troubles the main character encounters

One example of alliteration

One allusion

During the discussion time you have with your class or reading group, you'll report what you found. Or your teacher may want to look at your Novel Notebook to see your ideas.

3 passages that show evolutionary thinking:

The Theory of Evolution—Briefly

The belief that

- Life developed from non-life.
- All life on earth descended from a common ancestor through genetic adaptation, natural selection, and survival of the fittest.
- One species can change into another, given enough time.
- God had no part in the process.

The original name of Charles Darwin's book on this topic is *On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection, or the Preservation of Favoured Races in the Struggle for Life*. Darwin did not initiate the theory, but his work helped popularize it.

How do the main character's beliefs shape his actions?

The main character reacts to the curate by doing or saying what?
List two reactions. Include page numbers.

1.

2.

How does the main character describe the curate? (What are his physical characteristics? Include his voice, words, mannerisms, and clothing.)

How does this make readers view the curate?

Conflicts

What conflicts does the lead encounter? Note: Some may fit into more than one category.
Against himself:

Against others:

Against society:

Against nature:

Against God/the gods/fate:

Against technology:

One example of alliteration:

One allusion:

What I liked about
the book



Not so crazy about
this





The Friendly Persuasion

Please record these things as you read *The Friendly Persuasion*. Include page numbers.

- Three similes
- Three metaphors
- Qualities or traits of Jess and Eliza that help them get along and preserve their marriage

You'll refer to the last item in the list (the qualities or traits) as you discuss the stories with your class or teacher.

Also, you'll use your Novel Notebook to record answers to the questions listed after each short story you read. The questions are in your textbook under The First Six Chapters and The Last Eight Chapters. They are also included here in your Novel Notebook so you don't have to rewrite everything.

Three similes:



*“From a big-footed, gold-downed
gosling she swelled, almost at
once, like a slack sail which gets a
sudden breeze, onto a full-rounded
convexity.”*



Three metaphors:

*"A dragon-fly ran its darning
needle in-and-out—in-and-out of
the flowing water."*

“Music on the Muscatatuck”

The tension in this story comes from three separate characters wanting three different things—and these desires conflict with each other.

What does Jess want?

What does Eliza want?

What does Waldo Quigley want?

What does Eliza do to help her and Jess get along?

What does Jess do to help him and Eliza get along?

“Shivaree before Breakfast”

There are two separate tensions in this story, and they both involve Josh. What are they?

On page 27, you read Josh’s definition of growing up. Paraphrase it in your own words.

What is your definition of growing up? Use 75 words or fewer.

"The Pacing Goose"

Astute writers know how to create tension among the characters, and this story is a good example of that.

What are Eliza's problems in this story?

Jess's?

Enoch's?

"Lead Her Like a Pigeon"

What is Mattie's main problem in this story?

Is it resolved by the end of the story?

“The Battle of Finney’s Ford”

What creates tension in this story?

What does Jess do to show he loves Josh?

What does Eliza do to show she loves Josh?

What character traits or qualities do Jess and Eliza exhibit that help them get along with one another during this difficult time in their lives?

“The Buried Leaf”

Mattie, now 15, has two basic problems in this story. What are they?

Write three words to describe Mattie—the kind of girl she is. Does your description match any from the other characters’ eyes in the first paragraph of the story?

“A Likely Exchange”

What is Jess’s main problem in this story?

What do you think Jess will do with his new horse?

“First Day Finish”

Here’s another story with tensions among a triangle of characters. Name the three characters and the tensions they experience.

1.

2.

3.

From the context of the story, guess what being “read out of Meeting” means.

Read the poem “Virtue” in your textbook. How does it apply to “First Day Finish”?

In your opinion, which character has the more “virtuous soul”: Jess or Eliza? Explain.

What pulls Jess and Eliza together in this story?

“Yes, We’ll Gather at the River”

What do you think of Lafe Millspaugh? Who do you know that is like him?

“The Meeting House”

At the beginning of this story, before Jess sets out before sunup, how is he feeling and what is the weather?

Cite two examples of the changing weather.

1.

2.

What is the last indication of spring that seals his mood for him?

What is Jess's *memento mori*?

Do you have something that reminds you of the inevitability of death (without being too creepy about it)?

"The Vase"

What were the circumstances when Eliza painted the first swan?

The second swan?

Have you ever lost someone dear to you? If so, think of an item that symbolizes that person or pet.

Jess and Eliza never do see eye-to-eye in this story. What keeps them together even though they view the world so differently?

“The Illumination”

What exactly is the Illumination?

What, in your opinion, does Jess mean by “sampling as many of the elements as possible” and “Eternity is the depth you go”? Do you agree with him?

Who shows Jess the difference between living life to the full and barely living it?

“Pictures from a Clapboard House”

What is Uncle Stephen’s pet name for young Elspeth and why does he call her this?

What secret does Elspeth spill?

Make a prediction: Will Stephen and Lidy's marriage be successful and long-lived? Explain.

Do you know someone who married another whom parents did not approve of? How strong is their marriage now?

"Homer and the Lilies"

How old is Jess?

How old is Homer?

Why do you think Jess and Homer get along so well?

Do you wish you had a Jess in your life? Are you a Jess to someone?

Jess considered himself an adult when, at 18 years of age, he “owned a cow and horse and had cleared ten acres” (207). When will you consider yourself an adult?



qualities or traits of Jess and Eliza that help them get along and preserve their marriage



Jessamyn West often would amuse herself in the tuberculosis sanatorium by choosing actors to fill roles in books she was reading. What actors would you choose for each character listed below?

A. Jess

B. Eliza

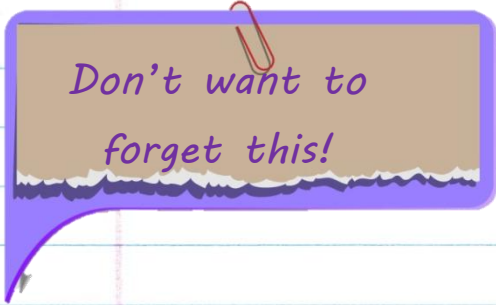
C. Josh

D. Labe

E. Mattie

F. Enoch

G. Stephen





Peter Pan

Make up the name for a new sports team and create a symbol or mascot for it. Then make a list of the qualities this new symbol stands for. For instance, the football team in Denver is called the Denver Broncos. Broncos are wild, untamed horses known for bucking, which makes them an appropriate name for a football team.

Name and Mascot

Qualities

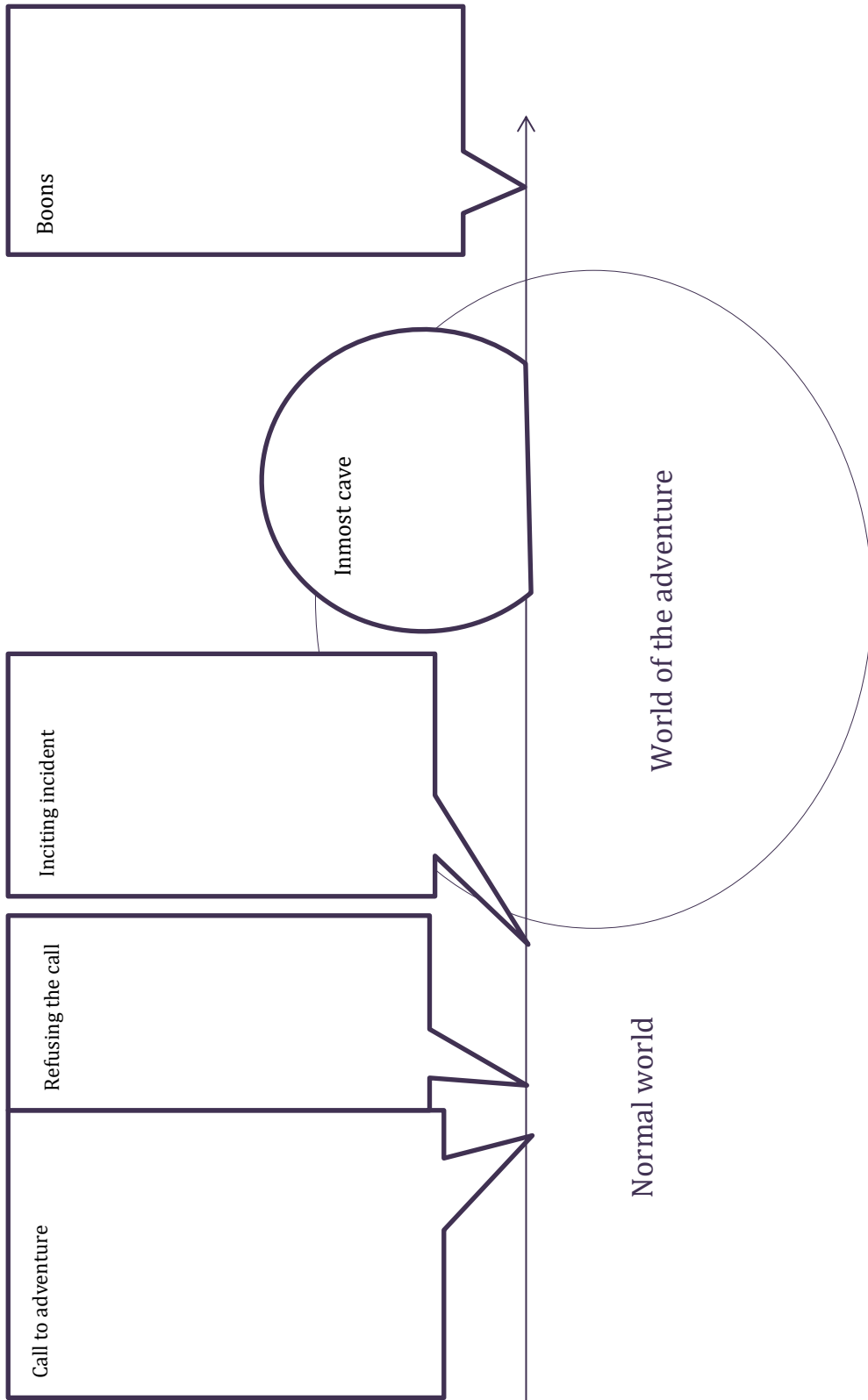
You won't be answering any questions about *Peter Pan* in your Novel Notebook. However, you will be exploring the hero's journey in your own life.

Use the illustration on the next page to map out a recent incident in your life. Maybe you haven't flown to magical islands, but you have had adventures of some sort.

Think about an incident or story in your life and identify it here:

Now turn the page to map it out as a hero's journey plot.

My Life as a Hero's Journey





Warriors Don't Cry

Why *don't* warriors cry?
Or do they?
If they do, when is it safe?

These and other questions bubble up from the deep recesses of a teen trying to deal with undeserved hatred and torture. The treatment she receives from the hands of adults and other teens is shocking—so shocking that she hides her true self away and, against her will, becomes a warrior.

As you did with *The Friendly Persuasion*, you will pause at the end some of these chapters to respond to them. The chapters are short and go quickly. Keep your Novel Notebook with you, for you will be using it as you answer questions.

There are too many questions here to answer all of them. The reading schedule divides the book into three sections. Choose **three chapters from each section** and answer the questions from those chapters.

You will note that the chapters are not titled; they are simply numbered. Name the chapters according to their content and what sticks out to you about them.

Author's Note through Chapter 9

Directions: Answer the questions for **three** of the chapters in this section.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS, AUTHOR'S NOTE, AND INTRODUCTION

What are your impressions of a woman who would acknowledge students who “refused to torture us,” even though they did nothing positive to help her?

What are your impressions of Melba Pattillo Beals so far, just from the front matter? (Note: **Front matter** is all the stuff before chapter 1 in any book.)

Here's a picture of Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas—an imposing edifice reminding one of a castle. Two *very long* wings to the left and right are cut out of the picture. Around the reflecting pool in the front of the building are nine benches. Each one of the Little Rock Nine has his or her name on a bench. As you can see, there's plenty of room in front of this building for angry protesters.



CHAPTER 2

Your new title: _____

Choose **two** of the four questions following to write more about here:

1. Melba wrote letters to God when she was young about her hopes and the inequities she saw all around her. This was nothing new. King David often wrote psalms to God about his hopes and the nasty things he was seeing or experiencing. Now it's your turn to write to God.

Write your own letter or psalm.

Dear God,

2. Melba remembered some seminal events in her life, even as a young child of four or five years of age. Recall an important event from your childhood and write it here.



3. Grandma India tells Melba, "You don't want to be white, what you really want is to be free, and freedom is a state of mind." Do you agree with Grandma India? Explain.

4. What are your gut reactions to Melba's stories about her trip to the merry-go-round, her experiences with the "White Ladies" restroom, and her father who could not help her mother for fear of retaliation? Write about it.

CHAPTER 3

Your new title: _____

What was Melba's motivation to sign up to go to Central High School? Write it here:



CHAPTER 4

Your new title: _____

What year in school was Melba when she entered Central High School?

How did whites react to the integration news?

How did blacks react to the integration news?

CHAPTER 5

Your new title: _____

CHAPTER 6

Your new title: _____

Do you agree with Grandma India's statement that "God's warriors don't cry, 'cause they trust that he's always by their side"? Explain.



© Mike Pamer

CHAPTER 7

Your new title: _____



Humor has great power to ease tensions, as Ernest Green and Terrence Roberts demonstrated. Recall a time when humor came to your rescue in this way or when you used it on someone's behalf. What did it defuse? Write the incident here.

CHAPTER 8

Your new title: _____

1. "Freedom is not integration. Freedom is being able to go with Grandma to the wrestling matches," writes Melba in her notebook. What is freedom to you? Finish the following sentence: "Freedom is . . ." Explain.
2. Melba hears people praying for her and knows that when she needs help, the church will be her network. Recall a time when you knew someone was praying for you. How did that affect you? Or recall a time when you prayed for someone. Write what happened.

3. On page 83 you will find a very poignant simile, and on page 88 you will find a clever one. Find them and write them here:

CHAPTER 9

Your new title: _____

On page 96 you will notice how evolution helped to demean black people by comparing them to something. Find the name and write it here:



CHAPTER 11

Your new title: _____

On pages 122-3 you will find an article Melba wrote. It is an extremely positive spin on a very negative and dangerous event. Think back to a horrible day in your life and write a short article here in as positive a light as you can, following Melba's example, without lying.

CHAPTER 12

Your new title: _____

CHAPTER 13

Your new title: _____

1. On pages 136 and 141, you will find two analogies (“It was like . . .”) that highlight the world of opposites that Melba was living in. Find these two analogies and write them here:



2. “Would you like to be white?” Consider the deeper meaning of the reporter’s question to Melba. Most people are the underdog in some undertaking—a sports team, their size, their intelligence, their birth order, their belief that the Bible is the true Word of God—just to name a few. Change the reporter’s question: “Would you like to be _____?” Fill in the blank (smarter, richer, quicker, taller and so forth). Answer your own question. Do you like Melba’s answer? Record your answers here.

CHAPTER 14

Your new title: _____

- “Disciplined, crisp, precise, confident, and powerful.” Those five words describe the 101st Airborne Division sent to help the Little Rock Nine. Choose five words to describe Melba’s integration experience so far. Then choose five words to describe the whites’ attitudes toward integration and write them here:

Melba’s experience

Whites’ attitudes

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

CHAPTER 15

Your new title: _____

Do you agree with Danny’s advice on page 161? Explain here:

CHAPTER 16

Your new title: _____

1. What simile describes the Arkansas National Guard on page 168?
2. Remember Melba's five-word description of the 101st Airborne Division in Chapter 14 (page 146)? Here is another opposite for you: Find the description of the Arkansas National Guard and the comments Melba's friends make about them in this chapter. Write the adjectives, nouns, and verbs they use to describe these men.

*Adjectives**Nouns**Verbs*

3. Melba often heard voices of wise council in her head when she was in trouble (Grandma India, Danny, and so forth). Who are your voices of wise council when you need a quick word in your ear?

CHAPTER 17

Your new title: _____

CHAPTER 18

Your new title: _____

CHAPTER 19

Your new title: _____

1. Melba writes about wanting to shoot a machine gun off over her attackers' heads, even though she knows that guns aren't allowed, even in her thoughts. These students had to deal with tremendous amounts of anger and pain as a natural reaction to being abused by students and betrayed by adults. What do you do when you're angry? What are some healthy ways of dealing with anger?

2. Read the advice Melba's mother gave her on page 210. Do you agree with her?

Chapters 20 through 28

Directions: Choose **three** chapters in this section to write about •

CHAPTER 20

Your new title: _____

Write your reaction to Melba not helping Minnijean on page 219.

CHAPTER 21

Your new title: _____

Integration (mainly, the white segregationists' reactions to it) took many things away from Melba's life. On page 2 she mentions that it took her childhood. It took her sweet sixteen birthday party, too. What are the other things stolen from Melba during this difficult year?

CHAPTER 22

Your new title: _____

"I wish I were dead," writes Melba in her notebook. When she finally tells Grandma India, what is that woman's response? What would you say or write to a friend who is contemplating suicide or who is very down?

To my friend

CHAPTER 23

Your new title: _____

“Dignity is a state of mind, just like freedom.” Do you agree with Grandma India’s statement? Explain. What do you think of Grandma India’s brand of fighting back (page 242)?

CHAPTER 24

Your new title: _____

CHAPTER 25

Your new title: _____

CHAPTER 26

Your new title: _____

What do you think about Link and his on-again, off-again actions?

CHAPTER 27

Your new title: _____

CHAPTER 28

Your new title: _____

1. Melba records a fire ceremony on pages 302-3. Many health professionals would agree with Grandma India in the healing powers of naming those who have wronged you and then forgiving them as the fire burns up their names. If you were to have a forgiving fire ceremony, whose names would you write down and burn up? Write the names and, if possible, have your own forgiving fire ceremony.

2. Write the metaphor by which Melba describes the McCabe family (page 307).

3. Melba uses another metaphor when talking about Link (page 311). Who are the “special gifts from God” in your life?

4. Formerly, you listed the things Melba lost during her horrible year of integration. Now list the things she gained from her torturous experiences at Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas, according to her.

What I absolutely loved!

What I couldn't stand!!



A Tale of Two Cities

It was the best of books; it was the worst of books.

To recap, you'll be making these lists here:

1. Characters—English
2. Characters—French
3. Things that support the idea of "Resurrection" as a theme
4. Things that support "Prison/Death/Burial" as a theme

To make things a little easier, I've included a list of characters on the next two pages. All you have to do is fill in who they are so you'll recognize them the next time you come across them. Believe me, you'll be glad you did.

The Characters

(In order of appearance)

1. Jarvis Lorry—a man of business, 70 years old in the beginning of the story
2. Jeremy (Jerry) Cruncher—
3. Lucie Manette—
4. Ernest Defarge—
5. Madame Defarge—
6. Doctor Manette—
7. Young Jerry Cruncher—
8. Mrs. Cruncher
9. Charles Darnay—
10. John Barsad—
11. Roger Cly—
12. Mr. C. J. Stryver—
13. Sydney Carton—

14. Miss Pross—

15. Miss Pross's brother Solomon mentioned (see #10)

16. Tall Gaspard—

17. Mender of the roads—

18. Monsieur Gabelle—

19. "Monseigneur"—unnamed—French aristocracy embodied. Selfish, predatory, "hungry," living in overwhelming luxury in the face of others' extreme famine.

20. Marquis St. Evrémonte—

21. The Vengeance—

Others:

Questions by Chapter

(Note: Not all chapters have questions.)

Book the First: Recalled to Life

Chapter 3

1. At one of the taverns, what does Jerry call himself?
2. How old is the emaciated man in Jarvis Lorry's dreams?

Chapter 4

Mr. Lorry and Lucie are traveling across the English Channel from Dover to Calais (Kal-AY). Find these towns on a map.

Chapter 5

1. There are two personifications/anthropomorphisms (giving inanimate objects/animals/ideas human characteristics, like Cupid for the idea of love) on page 22. What are they?
2. What is the signal by which Madame Defarge warns her husband of newcomers to the wine shop?
3. What is Monsieur Defarge's relationship with the old prisoner?
4. Why were the three men and the wine-shop keeper calling each other Jacques?
5. What did Doctor Manette keep in the dirty pouch at his neck?

Book the Second: The Golden Thread

Chapter 1

1. Why is Jerry Cruncher against his wife's praying?
2. List the clues to Jerry Cruncher's real night work, even though he calls himself an "honest tradesman."

Chapter 3

1. How did the lawyer for the defense (the Solicitor-General) show the reader that John Barsad might be a scoundrel?
2. What information did the Solicitor-General (Mr. Stryver) draw out of Roger Cly to show that Roger might be a scoundrel, too?

Chapter 4

Book the Second is subtitled "The Golden Thread." In this chapter, we find out what that means. Who or what is that golden thread and what is linked by it?

Chapter 5

How does Stryver use Sydney Carton?

Chapter 7

Describe Monsieur the Marquis by his looks and actions. His actions in this chapter have far-reaching consequences for himself and for others in this novel.

Chapter 9

1. What is your reaction when you learn who Marquis St. Evrémonde's awaited nephew is?
2. What is the alliteration Dickens uses on page 95? (Alliteration is repeating the first sounds of words.) Why is the repetition of that particular sound a fitting one in this case?
3. What is Charles' mother's dying wish?
4. Whom, figuratively, did the Gorgon turn to stone?
5. Who is Jacques?
6. Did Charles kill his uncle?

Chapter 10

1. What is Charles Darnay's profession?

2. What are the two promises?

3. Why does Dr. Manette stop Charles twice?

4. How does the reader know that Dr. Manette is upset without Dickens' writing, "Dr. Manette was upset"? Incidentally, the last four paragraphs of this chapter are a fine example of the writer's device "Show, Don't Tell." Dickens shows actions and reactions instead of telling the reader the obvious.

Chapter 11

In what way does Mr. Lorry divide himself up into two people?

Chapter 13

Do you believe the dissipated Sydney Carton when he says he'd do anything for Lucie and for those she loves?

Chapter 14

1. Look on your character list. Who is Roger Cly?
2. What are this “honest tradesman’s” tools?
3. What is a Resurrection Man?
4. Dickens uses “Show, Don’t Tell” again with respect to Jerry Cruncher’s lack of success in the night. What are the clues that tell you that Jerry was unsuccessful?

Chapter 15

1. The mender of roads, whom you met in Chapter 8, has become a member of Defarge’s fraternity. What is the clue?
2. What decision do the four Jacques come to?
3. What is the “register” the Jacques talk about?
4. What crime had the tall father of the dead child committed that he should be hanged so?

Chapter 16

1. Check your character list. Where have you seen John Barsad before?
2. What crucial information does Barsad the spy tell the Defarges?

Chapter 21

What is the significance of “One Hundred and Five, North Tower”?

Chapter 24

1. What does Stryver call the “unknown” nephew Evrémonte?
2. From where is Gabelle writing?
3. What is his crime?
4. Why does Charles finally decide to go to France?

Book the Third: The Track of the Storm

Chapter 3

In this meeting between Lucie and Madame Defarge, we have the juxtaposition of good and evil (or love and hate). But Lucie, obviously the good, seems weak while Madame Defarge seems strong and implacable. Why is it that in literature (as in life), evil seems stronger and more powerful than good?

Chapter 4

There is a definite change in Dr. Manette in Book the Third. He is stronger, more sure of himself and his abilities, more assertive, less fearful of losing his sanity. What brought about the change? Find the sentence on page 210 that explains his metamorphosis.

Chapter 5

Who do you think has just come to visit Mr. Lorry?

Chapter 6

1. Of what crime is Charles Darnay accused?

2. At his "trial," what are the points in his favor?

Chapter 8

1. When Miss Pross finds her brother Solomon in a wine shop in Paris, he is not happy to be found. Refer to your list of characters to remember who John Barsad was originally. What trouble did he get someone into?
2. You will remember the night that Jerry Cruncher, as a Resurrection Man, had been unsuccessful (pp. 124-5). He had even beaten his wife, suspecting her of praying against his success. Now you know why he was so upset. The information her reveals in this chapter is the payoff. What did he know?

Chapter 9

1. Jerry Cruncher seeks to make amends with Mr. Lorry by offering to do what?
2. What deal has Sydney Carton made with John Barsad/Solomon Pross?

3. The people, through violence, have become as hard and unfeeling as their former rulers. Find and write the sentence that best sums this up.

Chapter 10

1. In what way did Dr. Manette “denounce” Charles Darnay? (This is the payoff from pages 76 and 168-9.)
2. In this chapter, we learn who sent Dr. Manette to prison so long ago. Who was it and what crimes was the man trying to hide?
3. We also learn what Charles’ mother charged him to do when he grew up. What was that mission?

Chapter 11

We finally learn why Charles Darnay often went to France earlier. (Remember that going to France was the reason he was put on trial as a traitor to England when we first met him.) What had he been doing all that time in France?

Chapter 12

What is Madame Defarge's secret?

Chapter 14

What are Jerry Cruncher's two vows?

Chapter 15

1. What number is Sydney Carton?

2. Write the future fate of these people:

- John Barsad and Roger Cly
- Ernest Defarge
- Lucie Manette Darnay

- Dr. Manette
- Mr. Lorry
- Charles Darnay
- Sydney Darnay (Lucie and Charles' son)

Things that support “Resurrection” as a theme

(Things like names, dialog, actions, events, descriptions, figurative language, and so forth.)

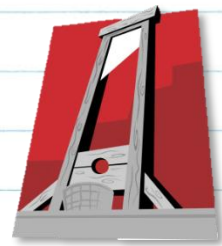
Things that support Death/Burial/Prison as a theme

(Things like names, events, places, dialog, descriptions, figurative language, and so forth.)



What I'll remember from this book

What I'd like to forget





Fahrenheit 451

There's nothing to see here. Move along.

No lists to record unless you want to pay attention to the lists in your textbook by noting them in your book.

Here's what you'll be doing in here:

1. Choose a time period anywhere from four hours to seven days.
2. Turn off all personal and entertainment technology during that time—mobile devices (except for emergencies), tablets, TVs, radio, social media, and so on.
3. Record on the next page what happened to you during your experiment and how you felt about being disconnected from those distractions.

Extra for writers: To learn a powerful method of writing, check out the conditional tense on the page just after your “disconnected” report.

Okay, so I tried it for _____ hours/ _____ days.

At first, I felt

Later, I felt

Here's what happened:

Here's what I learned:

Conditional Tense

The tense that uses “would” can be powerful and poignant to readers. Read pages 135-6, beginning with “Millie was not here”

Montag, still in the river, smells dry hay, and this reminds him of a distant memory of a real farm. He imagines he would sleep in the fresh hay in the loft. *He is not sleeping in the loft; he is imagining it.* He imagines what would happen: He would see the lights in the farmhouse go out. He would see a woman backlit in the window. He would feel safe. He would find “an incredible thing” the next morning at the bottom of the stairs.

These are his longings, his deep desires for peace, for being “fully aware of the world,” for a cessation of turmoil and distractions. The conditional tense’s use of “would” indicates what Montag *wishes* would happen. This is very powerful writing!

Now you try it. Take a character you’ve read about this year in this course or elsewhere and write his or her deepest longings in a few paragraphs using the conditional tense’s “would.”



The Screwtape Letters

Welcome to the dark side, where God is considered the Enemy and where the devil is revered (feared?) as Our Father Below.

The purpose of C. S. Lewis's exercise is to show us how we can be duped, fooled, or twisted into doing what the true enemy of our souls wants us to do, how we can be led away from the God who loves us. To that end, you'll be exploring some of the dark side's techniques.

This chapter in your Novel Notebook is divided into three sections:

- Letters 1-6
- Letters 7-19
- Letters 20-31, including "Screwtape Proposes a Toast," if available

You'll select **three the letters in each section** to answer here.

Or ask your teacher which letters or which questions below you should focus on and then answer those.

Letters 1-6

Please select three of the letters in this section to answer here.

Or ask your teacher which letters or which questions below you should focus on and then answer those.

Letter 1

1. Who are Screwtape and Wormwood?

2. Screwtape remarks that the patient shouldn't think of ideas as true or false but should judge them on the basis of popular jargon: academic or practical, outworn or contemporary, strong, stark, or courageous. Here are two modern examples of this skewed way to judge ideas. To watch a cool video of this chapter in comic book form, narrated by Andy Serkis (who played Gollum of the Lord of the Rings movies), go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D3MWVMKKY3A>.

The **first example** is a question found in a recent high school yearbook: "Would you have enough courage to tell a lie?" Notice that lying/telling the truth are not being evaluated on the basis of whether they are right or wrong but on the basis of which one is more courageous. This is what makes the question so slippery—who doesn't want to be thought of as courageous?

The **second example** is 29-year-old Brittany Maynard who decided to end her life in November of 2014 before her cancerous brain tumor did. Her suicide was hailed as brave and humane and was called "death with dignity" instead of suicide. She called her choice a "health-care choice" and "a freedom," according to www.nbcnews.com, that she hoped others would someday be able to take advantage of. People who viewed this decision through the lens of right and wrong often were considered cruel or lacking in compassion.

Write below any example of this shift from the arena of right and wrong to the arena of other values or catchwords such as "reasonable," "financially responsible," "compassionate," "brave," and so forth. You may use examples from life or from literature.

3. List the tactics/temptations:

Letter 2

1. What do you think is the purpose of his patient coming to Christ so early in the book?
2. Why, according to Screwtape, is it harder to tempt someone who successfully has come through this initial phase of disillusionment and dryness?
3. List the tactics/temptations:

Letter 3

List the tactics/temptations:

Letter 4

1. Screwtape describes what people “see” when they pray to God. What image of God comes into your mind when you are praying?

2. List the tactics/temptations:

Letter 5

1. What is the real business of devils, according to Screwtape?

2. Write what it is like in the demons' world (pp. 21-2):

3. What is the lie about God you find on page 23?

4. List the tactics/temptations:

Letter 6

List the tactics/temptations:

Letters 7-19

Please select three of the letters in this section to answer here.

Or ask your teacher which letters or which questions below you should focus on and then answer those.

Letter 7

List the tactics/temptations:

Letter 8

1. Explain in your own words the Law of Undulation.
2. How do the devils consider humans? (Think of what the Martians in *The War of the Worlds* wanted to do to the humans.)

3. What puts the devils' cause at most risk?

4. List the tactics/temptations:

Letter 9

List the tactics/temptations:

Letter 10

List the tactics/temptations:

Letter 11

1. What piece of information do you learn about demons on page 53?

2. What are the four categories of human laughter?

3. "Almost anything he wants to do can be done, not only without the disapproval but with the admiration of his fellows, if only it can get itself treated as a joke" (pp. 55-6).

Creepy example: A male high school student urinated in a female student's can of soda, which she unknowingly drank and later became nauseated on. I am not making this up. Here's what the male student said about the incident: "It was a little joke This is getting blown way out of proportion. It was a joke that is now a big ordeal. I'm not someone who does stuff like that." And yet, he did.

What does Proverbs 26:18-19 say about doing something questionable and then calling it a joke?

4. "Nothing shows a man's character more than what he laughs at" (Johann Wolfgang Von Goethe). What do you laugh at?

4. List the tactics/temptations:

Letter 12

List the tactics/temptations:

Letter 13

1. Do you ever see the “patient” directly, or is it always through the demons’ eyes?
What is the patient’s name?

2. What brought the patient out of his spiritual nosedive?

3. Disregard the intimation that a Christian can fall away after he’s saved. Some Christians believe this; others don’t. Lewis is using that possibility to heighten the conflict and the tension.

4. List the tactics/temptations:

Letter 14

List the tactics/temptations:

Letter 15

List the tactics/temptations:

Letter 16

List the tactics/temptations:

Letter 17

List the tactics/temptations:

Letter 18

1. What is “our Father’s first great victory,” according to Screwtape (p. 93)?
2. What is the insight you find into the demons’ world on page 94?
3. List the tactics/temptations:

Letter 19

1. What is the lie you find on pages 99 to 100?
2. What two things do you learn about Satan (“Our Father Below”) in this chapter?
3. List the tactics/temptations:

Letters 20-31

Please select **three** of the letters in this section to answer here.

Or ask your teacher which letters or which questions below you should focus on and then answer those.

Letter 20

List the tactics/temptations:

Letter 21

1. What is Lewis' analogy for the body ownership thing?

2. List the tactics/temptations:

Letter 22

1. What lie do you read on page 118?
2. What do you learn about the demons' world on page 117?
3. What does Screwtape mean by "to unite you to myself in an indissoluble embrace" (p. 121)?
4. Read 2 Corinthians 2:14-16. What does Paul say about aromas and smells? What is the "deadly odour," the "impenetrable mystery," and the "vast obscenity" Screwtape writes about?
5. Make lists of the similarities and the differences between "Music and Silence" and "Noise."



Similarities

Differences



Letter 23

List the tactics/temptations:

Letter 24

List the tactics/temptations:

Letter 25

1. What is Lewis' example of a perfect blend of change and permanence?

2. What kind of generation does Screwtape warn against enthusiasm? Why?

3. What kind of generation does Screwtape warn against Puritanism? Why?

4. List the tactics/temptations:

Letter 26

List the tactics/temptations:

Letter 27

List the tactics/temptations:

Letter 28

List the tactics/temptations:

Letter 29

1. What do you learn about demons on page 159?

2. List the tactics/temptations:

Letter 30

1. What do you learn about the demons' world on page 165?

2. Explain what Screwtape means by "real" life.

3. What is your definition of "real" life?

4. List the tactics/temptations:

Letter 31

1. What do you learn about the demons' world on page 171?
2. What interesting fact do you learn about demons on page 175?
3. What happens to the patient?
4. When the patient experiences reality at the point of his death, what does he see and understand?
5. How does Screwtape describe Hell?
6. How does Screwtape describe God?
7. Look up these pages and write down what Screwtape calls humans: 65, 72, 79, 94, 131, 153, 157, and 173.

Screwtape Proposes a Toast

1. Upon what have the demons been feasting?
2. Cerberus (193)—in Greek mythology, the many-headed dog that guarded the entrance to Hades
3. Bell-wether (194)—the lead sheep that has a bell around its neck; therefore, someone in a leadership role whom people will follow
4. “Here is someone who speaks English rather more clearly and euphoniously than I—it must be a vile, upstage, lah-di-dah affectation. Here’s a fellow who says he doesn’t like hot dogs—thinks himself too good for them no doubt. Here’s a man who hasn’t turned on the jukebox—he must be one of those highbrows and is doing it to show off. If they were the right sort of chaps they’d be like me. They’ve no business to be different. It’s undemocratic” (p. 199).

Give an example of complaints about people who don’t fit the current mold or who are considered “uppity” because they don’t join in. You may use examples you’ve heard, read, or thought about.

5. What warnings does Lewis put in this section that are relevant for today’s culture?

Insights from *The Screwtape Letters* I don't want to forget

Meet the author



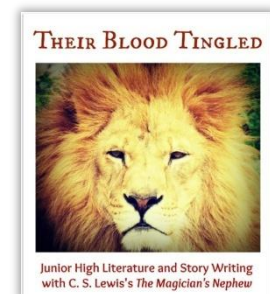
Sharon Watson is the author of [Jump In](#), our popular middle school course. She was forced to retire from homeschooling after 18 years when she ran out of her own children, but her love of teaching permeates her writing and literature courses. Sharon's popular course [The Power in Your Hands: Writing Nonfiction in High School, 2nd Edition](#) is based on her sought-after writing classes and is the sequel to [Jump In](#).

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