

Novel in One Sitting (NOS)

ThinkSheet for Speeding Up

Materials Needed: Easy novel, sticky tabs, this ThinkSheet, Basic Plot Outline p. 263, Speeding-Up Chart (p. 276), timer. No pacing device will be used for this drill in class (though later you may use it often and advantageously for *NOS* outside of class).

- ___ 1. Select a young adult novel that you have neither read nor seen its movie, if one exists. Try the juvenile section of the college library. See p. 326 for some suggestions. For your first trial, select a book between 150 and 250 pages long.
- ___ 2. Preview the text for 3 minutes.
- ___ 3. Put a sticky tab at the end of the first chapter and at the beginning of the last chapter.
- ___ 4. Read the first chapter carefully all the way through.
- ___ 5. Download on the Basic Plot Outline ThinkSheet what you know about the following:
 - a. the opening situation
 - b. the setting
 - c. the major and minor characters
 - d. the problem to be solved
 - e. any events or anything else that seems important
- ___ 6. Not counting the pages in the first and last chapters, divide the remaining text into three equal parts by placing two sticky tabs at the dividing points.
- ___ 7. Do not read any farther into the book. Bring the text to class ready to begin at the bell (if this is a class activity).
- ___ 8. Carefully review the Z hand motion (p. 245) and the procedures for *Novel in One Sitting*, p. 255. Come ready to start reading.
- ___ 9. Record on your Speeding-Up Chart: drill = NOS, LRR = NA (not applicable), the rate of your speed and comprehension, the date, and the number of minutes spent. On the top of the column, record the name of your novel and how many pages read. See sample p. 277, col. 11.

You don't speed read art. When I see or hear those boasts of a speed-reading-school graduate having read *Jaws* in an hour, I am pleased—think of all the time he's saved. But when someone brags to me that he's read *War and Peace* in five hours, I get sick to my stomach. You do not read *War and Peace* in five hours or even five days. You live for a season with Natasha and Pierre and André.... You might be hard put to describe in mere words exactly what transformation has taken place [in you] between the reading of [the first and last sentences in the book], but you know that you will never be the same.

-Katherine Paterson (1988, p. 45)

The Basic PLOT Outline

Use with RPR-B and NOS

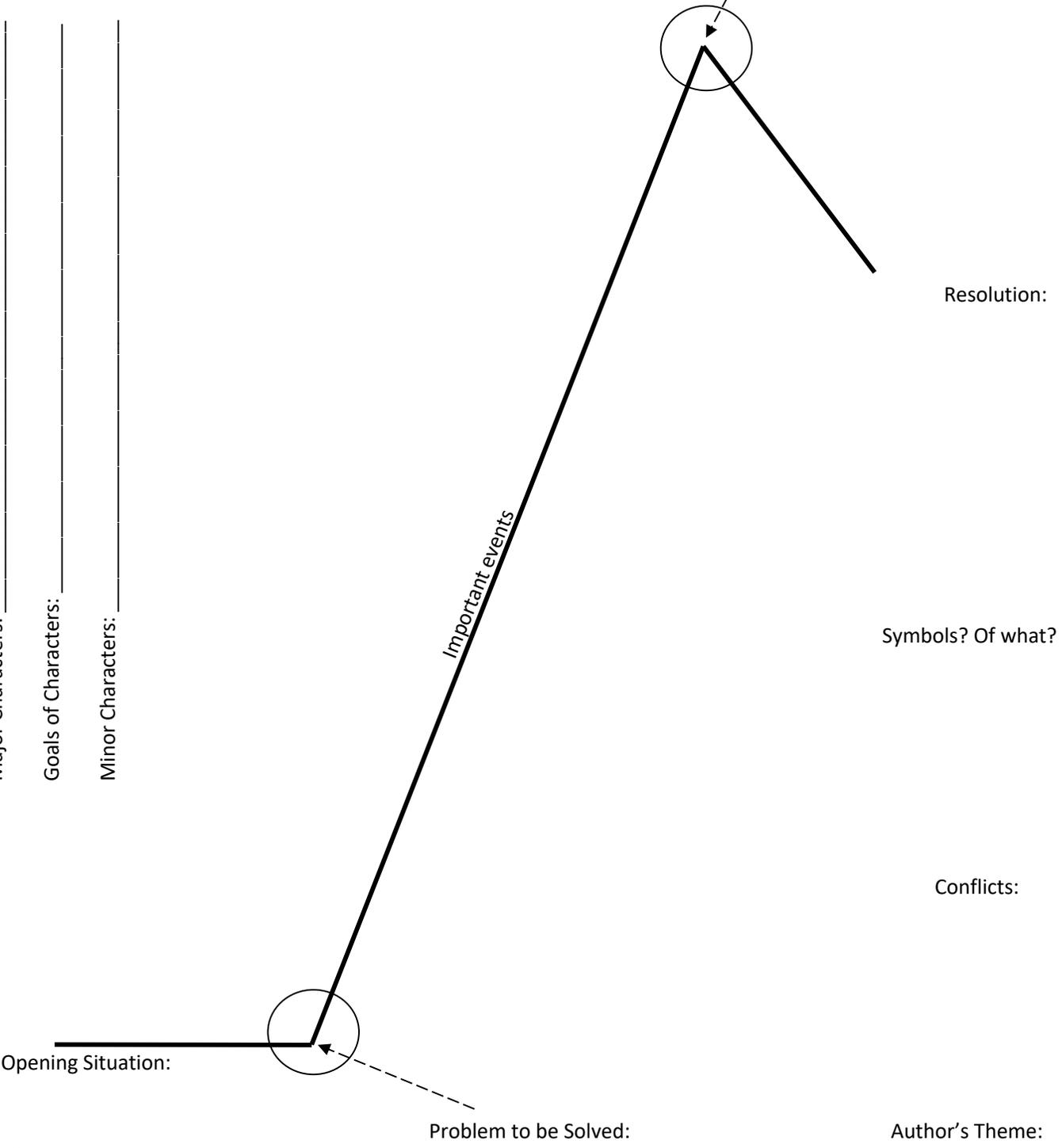
Title _____ Author _____

of pages _____ Average words per line _____

My Purposes for reading this text:

Climax, Crisis (the moment that changes everything):

Major Characters: _____
Goals of Characters: _____
Minor Characters: _____



Setting:
Time period _____
Places _____