Elements of Fiction **(2 Paragraphs each prompt, Collected on the first day of school)**
Focus on at least **four (2 per book)**of these concepts **and** the additional comments section per book- 6 in total (4 journals and 2 additional comment reviews)

FORM, STRUCTURE, AND PLOT: How is the novel organized? Length? Chapters? (Only note these things if they are significant in some way. I don't expect every paper to list the number of pages or chapters.)Discuss techniques such as flashbacks or dream sequences, stream of consciousness,chronological order of events, foreshadowing, parallel events, multiple, complex, or simple plot.How much time is covered? Compare and contrast beginning and ending.

POINT OF VIEW: (Narrative Perspective) Is the novel written from first person ("I"), second person ("you" very rare), or third person (he/she)? Is it a reminiscence or recent perspective written in the present tense or the past tense? If in the first person, is he/she the protagonists or an observer? If in third, is he/she omniscient (knowing everything), limited omniscient (knowing one character most often) or objective (no subjective commentary by the narrator, but limited omniscient)? Are there any shifts in point of view during the novel? (Shifts might come from the changed view(s) of the narrator or from different narrators.) What effect does the author achieve with point of view and what seems to be his/her purpose?

CHARACTER: General comments: flat/round? Static/dynamic? Believable? How are they revealed? How complex? How many? Protagonist/antagonist? Role of minor characters? Then describe 4-6 central characters: name, age, three descriptive adjectives, appearance, personality,function in novel, significance of name, a key quote that reveals character with an explanation of what the quote reveals. Be careful to not just label the characters with literary terms ("He is round; she is flat!") but look deeply into who the character is and what is the author's purpose in employing that character in the novel.

SETTING: Where and when does the novel occur? How is the environment described? Any symbolic meanings in the setting? How does the author use setting? What ATMOSPHERE is created by the setting? How important is setting to the novel?

DICTION: Analyze the author's word choices. First discuss the work in general: is the diction informal, formal, neutral, colloquial? Explain and give an example. Does the author use much imagery? Metaphoric and/or ironic devices? Is the language plain? Flowery? Concise? Strong? Lyrical? Does diction indicate social status, education, region? How much dialogue is used? How different is the dialogue from the narrative voice? How distinct is the dialogue from character to character?

SELECT REPRESENTATIVE PASSAGES featuring different plot
segments. Copy the segments and include them in your report. Closely (closely!) read the passages, then discuss, specifically, the diction. Comment on how diction helps define character, set tone, further theme, etc.

SYNTAX: (word order, pattern) Analysis of sentence and phrase patterns. Make some general observations: Are the sentences predominantly simple or complex? What about length? Level of formality? Any fragments? Rhetorical questions? Parallel structure? Repetitions? Are sentences loose, periodic? Is there much variety to the sentence pattern? How does the author use syntax to create rhythm and flow of the language? How does the author use syntax to enhance effect and support meaning? Using one of the same passages from the diction section above, focus on the author's syntax. What effect is he/she creating? Comment on how these choices help define character, set tone,
further theme, etc.

CONCRETE DETAIL/IMAGERY: Words or phrases that appeal to the five senses - most commonly visual. Look for recurrent images. What function does the imagery seem to have? Use direct quotations from the text to support your observations.

SYMBOLISM: When an image is used to suggest complex or multiple meanings (for example, hawk for war, dove for peace, swan for stately beauty, etc.) it becomes a symbol. Is the novel highly symbolic? Allegorical? Point out images used as symbols. What function does the symbolism seem to serve? Use direct quotations from the text to support observations.

FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE (TROPES): Language that is not literal. Metaphorical devices link meaning; most common are METAPHOR, SIMILE, PERSONIFICATION, AND ALLUSION. Point out examples; how used, how often? What effect does the figurative language have on the novel as a whole.

IRONIC DEVICES: Irony adds extra dimensions to meaning, sets up special understanding between writer and reader. Most common include VERBAL, SITUATIONAL, or DRAMATIC

IRONY, PARADOX, OXYMORON, EUPHEMISM, HYPERBOLE, and, UNDERSTATEMENT. Point out examples; how used, how often? How does the author use ironic devices through out the novel.

TONE: Author's attitude toward subject, characters, and reader. Could be playful, serious, angry, ironic, formal, somber, satiric, etc. Generally an author uses a limited variety of tones, often two or three complementary ones. Discuss the book's tone and observe how the author creates it through plot, diction, syntax, imagery, figurative devices. Use direct quotations from text to support observations.

THEME: The theme refers to the book's controlling idea or central insight. Identify the book's central theme. Identify any prominent secondary themes. Express as statements with subject and predicate, not as a word or phrase (i.e. Wrong: "loyalty", or "loyalty to country"; Right: "Loyalty to country often inspires heroic self-sacrifice." Wrong: "the futility of evil"; Right: "Evil is futile.")

Discuss any motifs you can identify. (Motifs: dominant ideas in a work of literature, a part of a major theme. It may consist of a character, a recurrent image or a verbal pattern.) Discuss the author's intention.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE TITLE: Comment on the book's title. What message does the author want to convey with the title? Does the meaning of the title change for the reader from pre- to post- reading?

MEMORABLE QUOTES: (about three to five) passages, sentences, fragments that capture the essence of the story and style. Discuss in detail the significance to the work.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS: At the end of your paper, write a couple of paragraphs about your final thoughts on the book? What would you tell a friend who asked you about it? Did you enjoy the novel? Strengths, weaknesses, lingering questions/ Does it relate to other books you have read? Any insights into human folly or triumph? Do you expect any lasting effects on you? Don't underestimate the importance of this last section!