

## Taking Notes on Literature as You Read

You will be held responsible for a quite a bit of literature this year. Your study at the junior level involves more than just knowing what happened in a story. We will be studying short stories, poetry, novels, plays, journals, documents, speeches, and variety of other genres. For these selections, you will be held responsible to know something about each author, the techniques and literary devices the author uses, and the literary school of thought to which the selection belongs and reflects. The only way to successfully complete literature studies at this level is **to read** the literature and take **notes as you read**.

On the next page is one system for taking adequate notes on the literature. It is not the only system for taking notes, but it is one that works. Especially if you have had problems with literature in the past, it is imperative that you adopt some system that will work for you. Remember that what you read in August, you must understand and be able to explain in January, and what you read in January, you must be understand and be able to explain in June.

# Taking Notes on Literature as You Read

## 1. Name the Selection

Include the name of the selection, the author, and any important facts about the author.

## 2. Write a synopsis (This section should be listed second for review purposes, but should be completed after you have read the selection.)

In ONE sentence, summarize the story or poem, giving the central idea and purpose of the selection

## 3. Summarize

Characters w/ identifiers

List the characters in the order in which they appear in the selection with some identifying information

Events

Use a word or phrase to remind yourself about the events of the selection

## 4. Identify the Genre

Name and define the genre, indicating why this selection is classified as such.

## 5. Record Important Vocabulary

Include definitions

## 6. Literary Devices

Define and identify the literary devices associated with this selection, and copy examples used if they are given in class.