

A NOVEL ENCYCLOPEDIA

TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS

For this activity, your students will be combining their knowledge of the novel they are reading in order to create a comprehensive Wikipedia-style class encyclopedia about it.

Preparation

Compile a list of elements from the novel so that you have one element per student in your class. Consider the following elements from the novel:

- ✦ **Characters** (protagonist, antagonist, supporting characters, narrator)
- ✦ **Objects** (important objects that carry symbolic value, are the cause of major events, are the result of major events, etc.)
- ✦ **Settings** (places where action occurs in the story)
- ✦ **Events** (major happenings that take place in the novel or before the novel begins but have an important effect on the story of the novel)

If you wish to assign these elements by choosing them out of a hat, then prepare a paper label for each element. Or, you may wish to use an online list randomizer to assign elements to students.

Assignment Directions

1. Assign a unique element to each student. Distribute an encyclopedia page template (page 111) to each student.
2. As a class, decide on the name of your encyclopedia and have each student fill out the top of their papers.
3. Give each student time to fill out the rest of their forms. For each element, students will provide the following information from the novel:
 - ✦ **Overview:** This is a very brief summary of the element (character, setting, etc.).
 - ✦ **Background:** In this section, students should supply a little history of the character, setting, etc., from *before* the novel begins. In other words, "What can be said about this element before the story began?"
 - ✦ **Role in the Novel:** Here, students should detail what happens to the element *during* the novel.
4. When individual students have completed their pages, conduct a peer or class review of each page. Was any important information left out? Was any erroneous information included? Give entries back to those who wrote them, along with a clean copy of the template. Allow students time to rewrite their entries, with the necessary changes made.
5. Collect the final drafts of students' entries and compile them into a class encyclopedia about the novel you are reading.

