

NAME: _____

LEFT IN SUSPENSE

In literature, a cliffhanger is an ending — usually to a chapter — that leaves many questions unanswered and puts the readers in a state of suspense. What will happen next? There's only one thing to do: keep reading to find out.

Chapters or page numbers in section: _____

Analyze the use of cliffhanger in the section of the novel you are reading. How does it work, and why is it an effective choice for an author to use?

1. How does the chapter or scene end? _____

2. Why is this a cliffhanger? What information does it leave the reader wanting to know?

3. Because the author withholds this information, what effect does that have on the reader?

4. How soon after the cliffhanger does the author give the reader this information — at the beginning of the next chapter, later in the novel, etc.?

5. How do you feel about the way the cliffhanger is resolved? Was the resolution satisfying? Why or why not?

Post-Reading Activities

NAME: _____

AN ELEMENTAL CHOICE

In literature, three of the terms that we can discuss are **voice**, **plot**, and **theme**.

Voice
the speech and thought patterns of the first-person narrator

Plot
the events that take place in the novel

Theme
the underlying idea(s) or message(s) in the novel

Your assignment is to write an essay in which you argue that one of these elements is the most important part of the novel. Do you think that what makes this novel the most special is the voice of its narrator, the events that happen, or the ideas about life that the author has included?



Follow this outline in writing your essay. Use the space provided to brainstorm ideas and to plan your rough draft.

Paragraph 1: Set up your essay by introducing the three terms and giving a brief description of the how each element is used in the novel.

How **Voice** is used: _____

How **Plot** is used: _____

How **Theme** is used: _____

Finish this first paragraph by stating which element you feel most makes the novel unique, interesting, or entertaining.

Paragraph 2: Use this paragraph to support the claim you made at the end of Paragraph 1. Provide three examples that show how this element contributes to the success of the novel.

Example 1: _____

Example 2: _____

Example 3: _____

Paragraph 3: Restate your opinion and wrap up your essay.

After you have completed this outline, write a rough draft of your essay on a separate piece of paper.