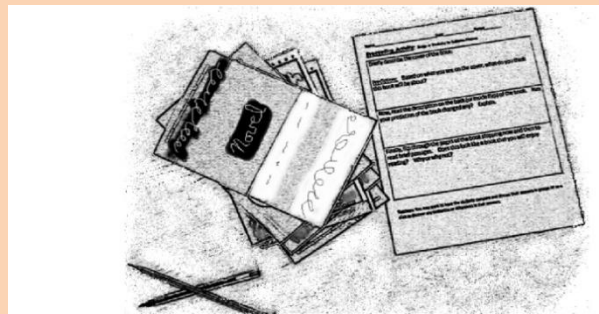


Across Five Aprils

by Irene Hunt

Literature and Grammar Unit
By Middle School Novel Units Inc.



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***Across Five Aprils* by Irene Hunt**

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Student Hand-out on Literary Terms and Elements of a Story - Page 1

(Students: Make sure you understand the following literary terms and elements of a story. There will be a quiz on the material following the study of the novel.)

1. **Antagonist and Protagonist** – The two main characters of the story.
 - a. **Protagonist** - The most important character or the "good guy" of the story.
 - b. **Antagonist** - The one who is in conflict with the main character or the "bad guy."

2. **Setting** - The time and place in which the story is taking place.

3. **Point of View:** The view, or from who's perspective, or viewpoint, that the story is being presented.
 - a. **First Person:** The narrator of a story is a character from the story.
 - b. **Third Person:** The narrator of a story is not a character from the story.

4. **Conflict** -The struggle that is taking place in a story. This can be either external or internal.
 - a. **Internal Conflict** - An internal (or emotional) struggle between what the character wants to do and what he feels he must do.
 - b. **External Conflict** The external problem that is standing in the way of the character and what he wants to accomplish.



Pre-reading Activity: *Across Five Aprils* by Irene Hunt

Briefly describe the cover of the book:

Prediction: Based on what you see on the cover, what do you think this book will be about?

Now, read the description on the back (or inside flap) of the book. Has your prediction of the book changed any? Explain.

Finally, flip through the pages of the book stopping now and then to read brief passages. Does this look like a book that you will enjoy reading? Why or why not?



Chapter 2

Literary Elements: Antagonist and Protagonist

The protagonist is the most important character or the “good guy” of a story and the antagonist is the one who is in conflict with the main character or the “bad guy.” However, not all stories have an antagonist.

Who is the protagonist of this novel? _____

Synopsis or Summary?

Synopsis means summary. Therefore, if you are asked to write a *synopsis* of something you have read, than you are being asked to summarize, or tell what happened during the reading in your own words.

Write a brief synopsis of this chapter. Be sure to write in complete sentences with proper grammar and punctuation.

Remember: Do not copy sentences from the book!



Chapter 3

Chapter 3 Thought Questions: (explain your answers in detail)

Do you think it is right for Bill to follow his heart and go to fight for the South when the rest of his family and friends are fighting for the North?

Do you think you would ever have the nerve to do something you believe in if your loved ones believe in something else?

Grammar Activity: Singular and Plural Nouns

The word, **single**, means “**one**.” Therefore, a **singular noun**, is a noun that names only **one person, one place, one thing, or one idea**.

The word, **plural**, means “**more than one**.” Therefore, a **plural noun**, is a noun that names **2 or more people, 2 or more places, 2 or more things, or 2 or more ideas**. Plural nouns often, but do not always, end in ‘s’ or ‘es’.

List 5 singular and 2 plural nouns from the first 2 paragraphs of chapter 4.

Singular Nouns:

Plural Nouns:



Chapter 4

Thought Question

List 3 to 5 adjectives to describe how Jethro's mother must have been feeling and then, in your own words, describe what she must have been thinking when she heard Jethro read the letter about the war from her son, Tom.

Adjectives:

Her thoughts:

Chapter 5

Thought Questions:

A. Do you think it is fair that some of the town's men are blaming Jethro's whole family because his brother, Bill, chose to fight for the South? Explain your answer.

B. Why do you think Mr Burdow, the father of the boy who killed Jethro's sister, Mary, decided to help save Jethro from the man who was trying to hurt him by spooking his horses?

C. Do you think Mr. Burdow is the bad person that many people think he is? Explain your answer in detail.



Compare and Contrast

To **compare** two things means to express ways in which they are alike. To **contrast** two items means to express ways in which they are different. For example, suppose you are asked to compare and contrast **parents** to **teachers**:

Contrast	Compare
----------	---------

<p><u>Parents</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • live with you • provide you with food • provide you with shelter and clothing 	<p><u>Teachers</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • see you on school days • assist you with class work • assign you with homework 	<p><u>Parents and Teachers</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • care about you • teach you new things • prepare you for life • provide you with materials for learning • give you advice • correct your behavior
--	--	---

Compare and Contrast two different characters from the story.

Contrast	Compare	
<p>Name of Character:</p> <hr/>	<p>Name of Character:</p> <hr/>	<p>Both Characters:</p>



Create Your Own Vocabulary List

Create a vocabulary word list from words chosen from this chapter of the book. Pretend that you are a teacher and choose words that you feel other students in your class may not already know.

Vocabulary Word	Part of Speech	Dictionary Definition
------------------------	-----------------------	------------------------------

<u>1.</u>		
<u>2.</u>		
<u>3.</u>		
<u>4.</u>		
<u>5.</u>		



Plagiarism is the act of stealing another author's words and using them as your own. Plagiarism is wrong and usually comes with serious consequences for the person caught in this shameful act.

Learning to Paraphrase

To **paraphrase** means to read a phrase or phrases and then rewrite the phrase(s) using your own words instead of copying the phrase(s) word-for-word from the book. This is a vital skill to know for writing in order to avoid **plagiarism**.

Read the first full page of this chapter. Then, write a few lines paraphrasing what was said on that page. Remember to write in your **own** words!



Chapter 9

Comprehension Question

A. Explain, in your own words, what Jethro decides to do about the problem of Eb being a deserter.

Thought Question:

B. Do you think Jethro did the right thing? Do you think his decision to send the letter was a risky one? Why or why not?



Grammar Activity: Prepositional Phrases:

A **prepositional phrase** begins with a preposition and ends with a noun. It is **not the subject**, and it is **not the action** of the sentence.

It is *extra*

information added to the sentence to show a relationship of a noun or a pronoun to another word in the sentence.

Example:

Mrs. Jones teaches at J.D. Middle School in Smalltown, Georgia.

prep. phrase 1

prep. phrase 2

Some common prepositions: *at, of, to, in, into, with, through, above*

Examples of prepositional phrases:

at the store

near the back

beside the table

to my school

of the chapter

in the backyard,

under the stairs

above the sink

List 5 prepositional phrases from the first **sentence** of chapter 10.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____



Climax and Rising and Falling Action

The action of a story will generally build up or rise until it reaches a peak, known as the **climax**, of the story. The climax is the most important point of the story. This is generally also a turning point in the story where the action then falls until the story reaches a conclusion or a **resolution** to a problem. What do you believe is the climax in this story? In your own words, describe it.

Now, list some important details that lead up to the climax.

Now, list some important details that take place after the climax.

How does the story end? What is the resolution?



Rubric for Final Essay Test

	Perfect	Excellent	Good	Okay	Poor
	Detailed, full sentences, with no errors in grammar, punctuation, or spelling	Full sentences with very few errors in grammar, punctuation, or spelling	Full sentences with some errors in grammar, punctuation, or spelling	Incomplete sentences	Incomplete sentences with errors in grammar, punctuation, or spelling
Setting	10 points	8 points	7 points	6 points	5 points
Character Description	10 points	8 points	7 points	6 points	5 points
Mood	10 points	8 points	7 points	6 points	5 points
Plot Description	10 points	8 points	7 points	6 points	5 points
Description of the Ending	10 points	8 points	7 points	6 points	5 points

45-50 points = **A**

40-44 points = **B**

35-39 points = **C**

30-34 points = **D**

25-29 points = **F**

Answers:

Chapter 1

1) **Point of view:** third person

Chapter 1 Comprehension Question

A. *He likes to read, he seems to enjoy nature (watching birds), talks to his horse, and even attended school.*

Chapter 2

Grammar Activity:

List 15 nouns from the first paragraph of chapter 2. Next, underline the proper nouns. (possible answers)

men

fields

chores

Jethro

bucket

well

edge

barnlot

water

horses

chores

men

dust

faces

kettle

well

brothers

Wilse Graham

pleasure

lapse

years

Chapter 2 Comprehension Question

A. *He thought of war as a kind of excitement. He thought it must give a man a feeling of well-being, strength, and fulfillment.*

Thought Question:

B. Answers will vary. Possible answer: *Listening to his family talk, and argue, over war and slavery has made him realize that there is more to war than excitement*

Chapters 3-4

Grammar Activity:

List 5 singular and 2 plural nouns from the first 2 paragraphs of chapter 4. (possible answers)

Singular Nouns:

*month February city town North Ulysses S. Grant Jethro
victory Fort Henry Tennessee line*

Plural Nouns:

bells miles

Chapter 5

Grammar Activity:

Adjectives:

(possible answers)

limp strong hot deeply roasted weak black ashamed unacceptable unbearable

Chapter 5 Thought Questions

Possible answer to B.- *Burdow may have been helping him because Jethro's father fought for the town's people to spare Burdow's son when Mary was killed years earlier.*

Chapter 8

Grammar Activity: Verbs:

List 10 verbs or verb phrases from the first full paragraph of chapter 8. Remember, each sentence should have, at least, one verb. (possible answers)

was looking realized had meant had been going counted beginning associated had spent had emerged had done had taken hailed taken

Chapter 9

Personal pronouns:

List 4 personal pronouns from the first paragraph of this chapter. You do not need to write the same pronoun more than once.

it their they them

Chapter 9 Comprehension Question

A. *He decided to write to President Abraham Lincoln to ask for advice.*



Chapter 10

Grammar Activity: Prepositional phrases:

List 5 prepositional phrases from the first sentence of chapter 10.

in May

of 1863

from the East

of another Union disaster

at Chancellorsville

SAMPLE

