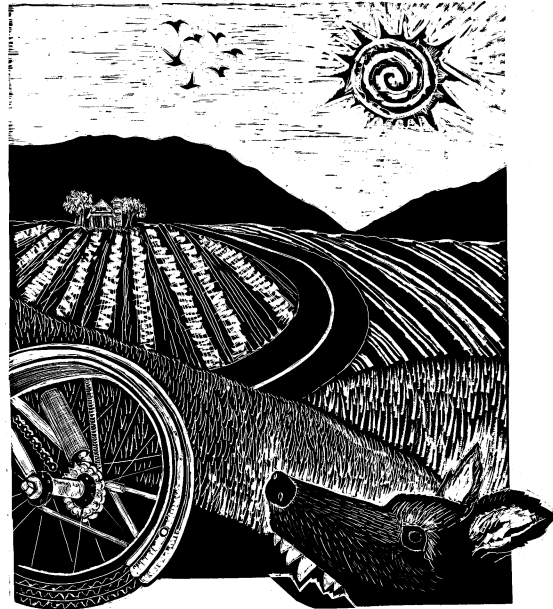


Critical Reading Activities for the Works of Robert Cormier



The Chocolate War



I Am the Cheese



In the Middle of the Night



We All Fall Down

Donna Gilliland Shippen
illustrated by Margery Niblock

User's Guide to Walch Reproducible Books

As part of our general effort to provide educational materials that are as practical and economical as possible, we have designated this publication a “reproducible book.” The designation means that purchase of the book includes purchase of the right to limited reproduction of all pages on which this symbol appears:



Here is the basic Walch policy: We grant to individual purchasers of this book the right to make sufficient copies of reproducible pages for use by all students of a single teacher. This permission is limited to a single teacher and does not apply to entire schools or school systems, so institutions purchasing the book should pass the permission on to a single teacher. Copying of the book or its parts for resale is prohibited.

Any questions regarding this policy or requests to purchase further reproduction rights should be addressed to:

Permissions Editor
J. Weston Walch, Publisher
321 Valley Street
P.O. Box 658
Portland, Maine 04104-0658

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

ISBN 0-8251-3915-5

Copyright © 2000
J. Weston Walch, Publisher
P.O. Box 658 • Portland, Maine 04104-0658
www.walch.com

Printed in the United States of America

Contents

<i>Author's Introduction</i>	<i>v</i>
<i>To the Teacher</i>	<i>vi</i>
<i>About Robert Cormier</i>	<i>x</i>
<i>Description of the Novels</i>	<i>xi</i>
Book 1: <i>The Chocolate War</i>	1
Teacher Notes	2
Synopsis	5
Check Your Comprehension	6
Reading Strategies Questions	10
Graphic Organizer: Identifying Conflicts	11
Discussion Questions	12
Writing Assignments	14
Book 2: <i>I Am the Cheese</i>	15
Teacher Notes	16
Synopsis	19
Check Your Comprehension	21
Reading Strategies Questions	24
Graphic Organizer: Identifying Symbols	25
Discussion Questions	26
Writing Assignments	28

Graphic Organizer: Identifying Conflicts

THE CHOCOLATE WAR

As the title suggests, *The Chocolate War* is about conflict. The central conflict is the one that begins when Jerry refuses to sell chocolates. However, there are many other conflicts in the book, both internal and external. An **internal conflict** is a struggle within the character. An **external conflict** is an actual event, such as a disagreement or a fight.

The six main characters in *The Chocolate War* are listed below. Choose one of these characters. Write the character's name in the center of the web. On the lines to the left, list some of the internal conflicts that character experiences. On the right, list some of the external conflicts he faces.

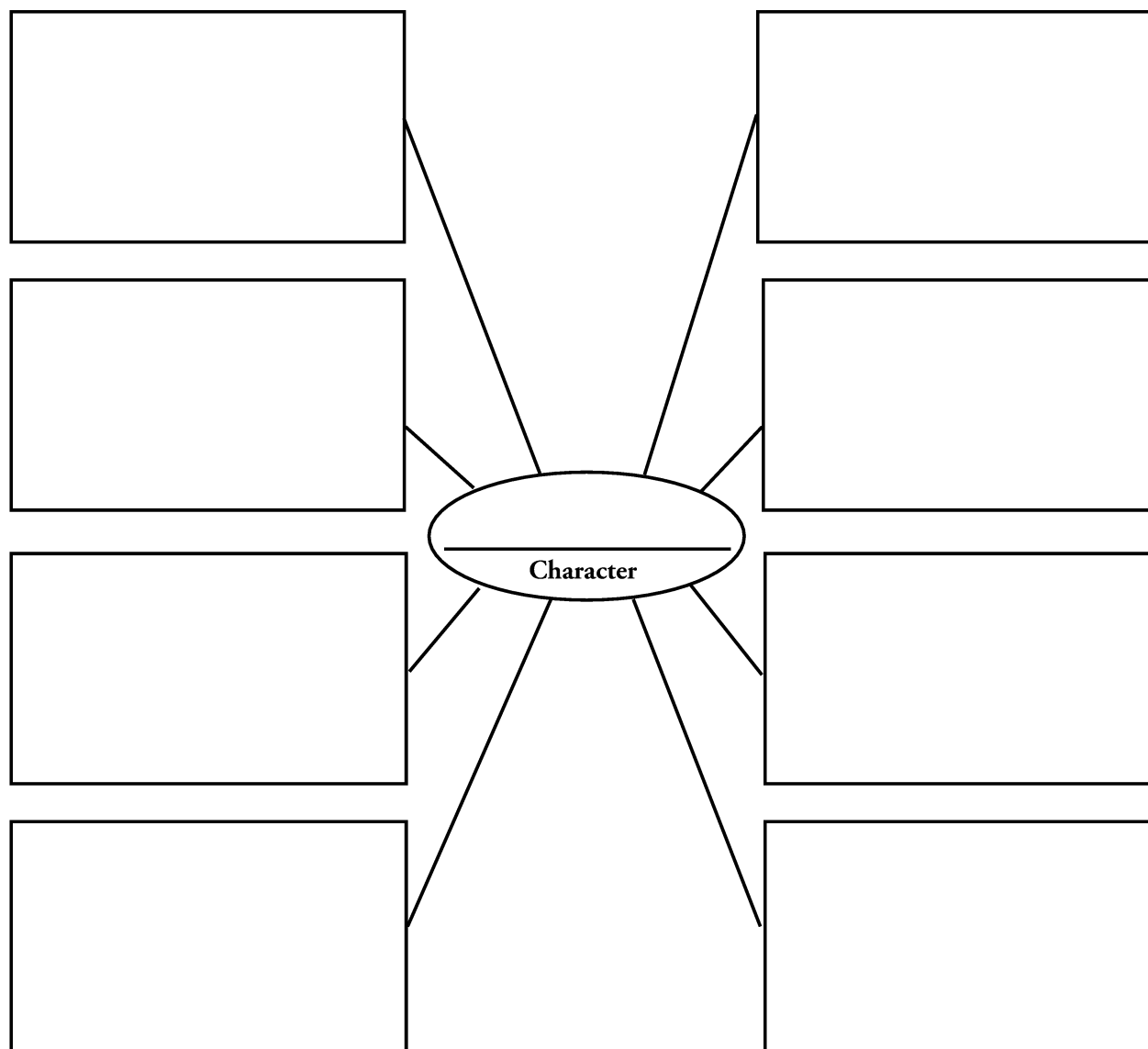
Jerry
Obie

Archie
Brother Leon

Goober
Emile

Internal Conflicts

External Conflicts



Check Your Comprehension

I AM THE CHEESE

pp. 3–15

1. Where is the main character going on his bicycle, and why? _____

2. What name does T give for himself in Tape OZKK001? _____

3. What smells does A associate with his parents? How did this change after the bus trip? _____

pp. 16–49

4. What is the main character's name? _____
5. What is the main character's father's name and what does he do for a living? _____

6. Why is Adam's father in Rutterburg? _____

7. What song did Adam's father sing to him as a child? _____

8. What "clue" does Adam's memory of the encounter with the mean dog in the woods reveal? _____

pp. 50–98

9. Who is Amy Hertz? _____
10. What is a "number?" _____

11. How is Amy a "clue?" _____

12. What does Adam find in his father's bottom desk drawer? _____

(continued)



Check Your Comprehension *(continued)**I AM THE CHEESE*

13. Whom does Adam's mother telephone every Thursday? _____

14. What makes Adam realize that his parents have been lying to him? _____

pp. 99–150

15. Who is the "gray man" and whom does he *really* work for? _____

16. Who is Paul Delmonte? _____

17. Why does Adam's family move to Monument? _____

pp. 151–201

18. What are Adam's mother's "Never Knows"? _____

19. Why did Mr. Grey advise Adam's family to leave Monument for a few days? _____

pp. 202–211

20. Where did Adam's family go on their trip and where did they stay? _____

21. What does Adam find when he returns to the motel on his bicycle? _____

22. What happens when Adam tries to call Amy from Belton Falls? _____

23. What happens when Adam calls directory assistance for Amy's number? _____

24. Whom does Adam's father think he sees in the car he suspects of following them? _____

25. Whom does Adam see walking towards him after the car accident? _____

(continued)

Check Your Comprehension *(continued)*

I AM THE CHEESE

pp. 212–234

26. When Adam reaches Rutterburg, what do we find out about his bicycle journey? _____

27. Is Adam's father a patient in the Rutterburg hospital? _____
28. What is in the package Adam has been carrying? _____

29. Why does Adam say "I am the cheese"? _____

30. Who is T and why was he put on suspension? _____

31. Who is Witness #599-6? _____

32. Who is Subject A? _____
33. How long has it been since Adam's parents were killed? _____

34. T recommends that either Subject A be "terminated" or that his "condition be sustained until Subject A obliterates." What do you think each of these recommendations means? _____



Discussion Questions

FADE

Use examples from the book to answer the following questions about *Fade*. Your teacher may ask you to write essay answers or to participate in an oral discussion. Use the space after each question to write notes for either an essay or a discussion.

1. Paul uses the fade to spy on people, but he is shocked by what he sees. During confession, Paul asks the priest if it is a sin to spy on people. What is the priest's response? What do you think? Is it wrong to watch or eavesdrop on people without their knowledge? Do people have the right to privacy even when they are doing things society considers wrong?

2. Each of the three faders did things while in the fade that they would not have committed otherwise: trespassing, spying, theft, vandalism, assault, murder. Discuss why Adelard, Paul, and Ozzie did what they did. Did the fade make them do bad things, or just allow them to do things they already wanted to do?

3. The fictional character Paul Moreaux and his real-life cousin Jules Roget have different opinions of Rudolph Toubert. Compare and contrast how Paul and Jules view Toubert as a husband, businessman, and community leader.



Reading Strategies Questions

WE ALL FALL DOWN

The idea of falling is an important theme in *We All Fall Down*. Answer the following questions to help you see how the author uses falling, both literally—where the fall is real—and figuratively—that is, where no physical fall is involved, but the image of falling is used.

1. Find some passages in the book that refer to people or things falling. List them here.

2. Find some passages in the book where people or things fall figuratively, not literally. List them here.

3. Most of the falls in this book, both the real ones and the figurative ones, have an effect on the action of the novel. For example, the key that falls from Jane's wallet in the mall sets the whole story in motion. Choose one of the falls you identified in questions 1 and 2. Describe how this fall affects the action of the novel.

4. There are many images of falling in this novel, and one final image of rising. Find this image. Describe the way this image contrasts to the images of falling in the rest of the book.



Writing Assignments

IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT

1. Imagine you are a newspaper reporter who, like Les Albert, has been assigned to write a story about the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Globe Theater tragedy. Given what you know about the circumstances of the balcony collapse, and about John Paul Colbert, write a two to three paragraph story on a separate piece of paper. You may use the space below to make notes or an outline.

2. Imagine you are John Paul Colbert and you have finally decided, after 25 years of silence, to write a letter to the editor regarding the Globe Theater tragedy. Give careful thought to what you want to say. Will you apologize or defend yourself? Will you seek sympathy or express anger for the years of harassing phone calls and hate mail? On a separate piece of paper, write a two- to three-paragraph letter. You may use the space below to make notes or an outline.

3. You have been asked to write a poem as an obituary for Lulu. Think about her life, both as a child and as an adult. Write a poem expressing your thoughts and feelings about Lulu. You may use the space below to organize your thoughts before writing.

