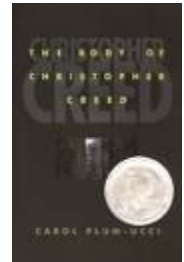
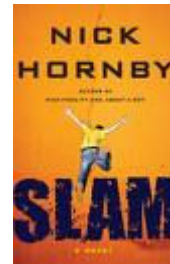


Reading Project 5b



Plot Telegrams: Follow your teacher's instructions.

Plot: Pool the information on your plot telegrams and write a 50 word plot summary of your novel. Do this in your group and make sure it is a well-structured, coherent text. Do not exceed the 50 word limit.

Plot Diagram: Now enter these main events and turning-points into a plot diagram. How does the tension rise and fall?



The Ending: What is your opinion of the ending of the story? Complete the topic sentence and follow it up with reasons justifying your opinion.

The ending of the story is _____

Do you think the story is plausible, i.e. does it ring true? Could the events described in the book really happen? If not, what is the point of telling the story in this way?

Foreshadowing is when a hint is given about plot developments to come. Find an example and give a brief explanation. (Give the page reference)

Characters: Sociogram

On a separate sheet draw a diagram showing how the main characters relate to each other. How close are the characters to one another. Draw close friends and family closely together, enemies far away... Use symbols to indicate the relationships between characters.

Character Profiles

Do this task for 2-3 main characters in your book and take a closer look at their personalities. Who are they really? Look at the different levels of their personalities, starting with the environment (setting) they live in and move in towards their spiritual centers. Draw a circle diagram like the one on this page and write a few keywords or sentences into each layer of the character's personality.

Slip into the character's mind and consider the following questions:

Environment: Where does your character live/work? What is this place like? How does it affect him/her? Who else is there? How do these other people influence him/her? How does your character get along with them?

Behavior: What does your character do? List a few important or typical actions or activities of your character

Capability: What is your character good at? What strategies does he/she use in the story? Does he/she use them openly and consciously? What skills does he/she have?

Beliefs: What are your character's basic beliefs? Think of the various ideas that he/she thinks are true, and that your character uses as a basis of daily action. Beliefs can be both permissions and limitations. (e.g.: "I am strong! The positive forces will always win!" or "I am afraid of my stronger enemy, he will certainly kill me." or "I don't do this or that because I think it's wrong.")

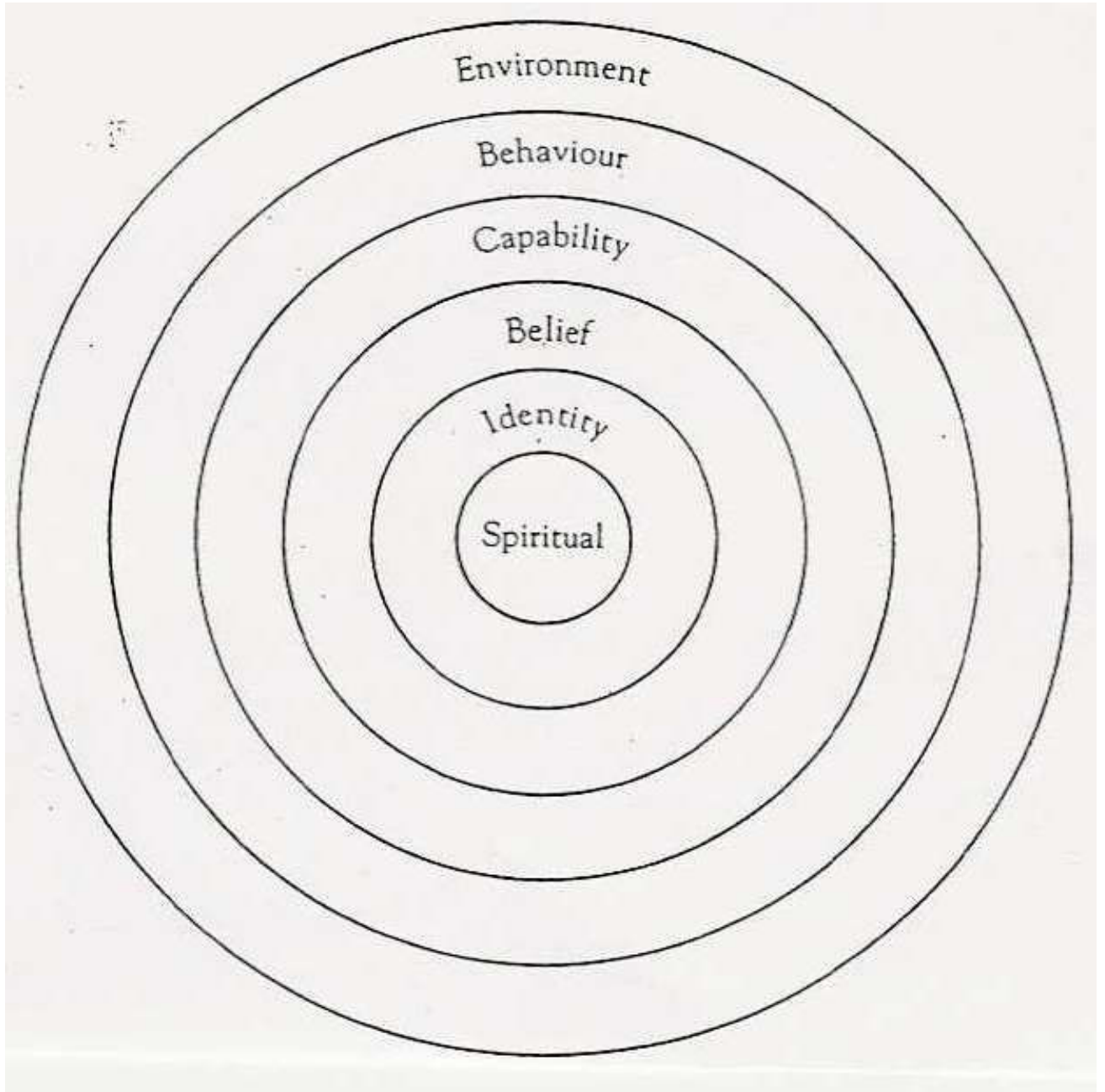
Identity: What are your character's core values and his/her mission in life? What does your character want to achieve?

Spiritual: This is the deepest level of any character or person. Here we consider such metaphysical questions as "Why are we here? What is our purpose?" These questions are hardly ever asked or answered openly. Try to slip into your character's mind and answer these questions for him/her. What would he/she say?

Title of Book/Story

Author:

Character's name:



Now do a character profile for the main character(s) in your book:

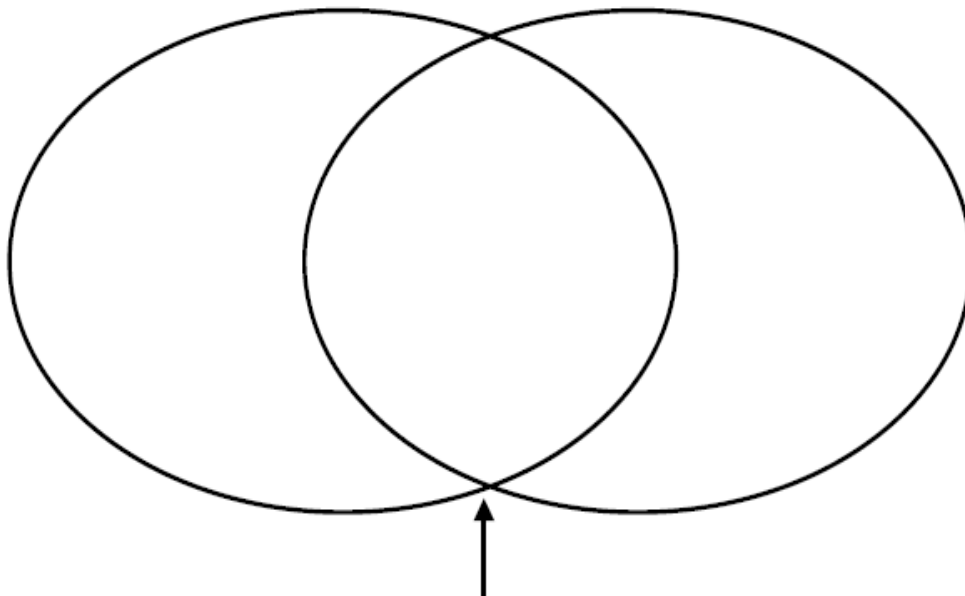
Here and There:

In your book you see characters living in a different place or country. What did you learn about this place? Can you find any **similarities or differences** between your life and your main character's experience?

Fill in a Venn Diagram: Write details that tell how things are different in the outer circles. Write details that tell how life is alike where the circles overlap. Draw big, A4 size diagrams. Tip: Brainstorm in your group first, then decide how much your circles are going to overlap before you fill in your facts.

HERE

THERE



Now focus on the **differences**. Are they due to

- social background
- race
- country/nationality
- age
- time
- cultural values
- other: please specify

What Do You Stand For?

1. What do they mean?

Work in your book-group and read the list of values on the next page. Discuss what each of them means **for you** and look up any unknown words in your dictionary.

2. Groups of Values

Go through the list again and see if you can form meaningful groups of values that belong together. Take one index card for each group and write the similar or related values on the cards.

3. Personal Ranking: TOP TEN

Now choose the 10 most important ones. Do this on your own, without discussing it with your group. Then meet with your group again and share your lists..

4. Group Ranking: TOP FIVE and BOTTOM FIVE

In your group discuss your rankings and agree on the 5 most important values for your personal lives.

Which five do you consider least important?

5. Character Profiles:

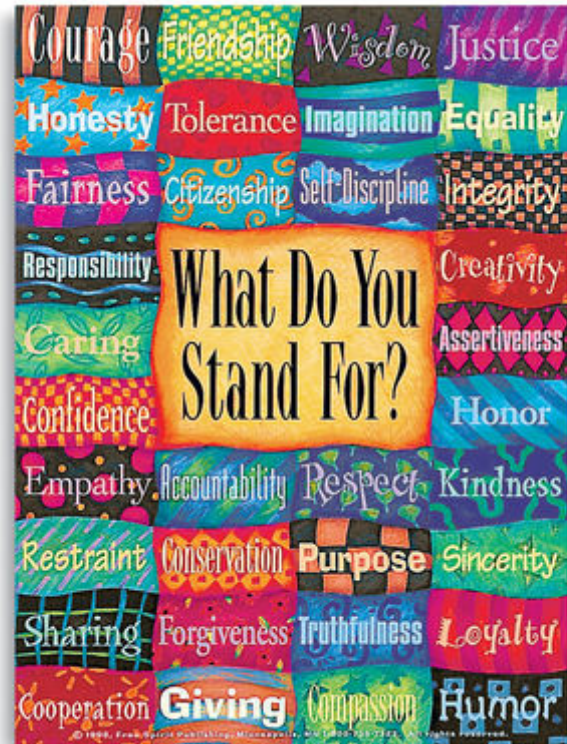
If you were X...

If you were one of the main characters in your novel, which values would you have chosen?

In order to answer this question, look at your character profiles. Then discuss which values they stand for. Give reasons and find evidence in the book.

Write a short, well-structured paragraph for each value that you have found.

Distribute and share the work in your group – each of you should write at least 2 paragraphs. (Topic sentence ---- body/evidence/examples ---- conclusion)



List of Values

Adventure
Affection (love and caring)
Assertiveness
Arts
Caring
Change and variety
Community
Compassion
Competence
Competition
Confidence
Conformity
Cooperation
Courage
Curiosity
Country/Citizenship
Creativity
Democracy
Ecological awareness
Economic security
Efficiency
Equality
Excellence
Excitement
Fame
Fairness
Family
Forgiveness
Freedom
Friendship
Giving
Helpfulness
Honesty
Honor
Humor
Imagination
Independence

Influencing others
Inner harmony
Integrity
Justice
Kindness
Knowledge
Leadership
Loyalty
Love
Meaningful work
Money
Nature
Openness
Order (tranquility, stability,
Physical challenge
Pleasure
Power and authority
Privacy
Quality of what I take part in
Quality of relationships
Rank and Hierarchy
Religion
Reputation
Responsibility and
accountability
Respect
Restraint
Security
Self-discipline
Self-respect
Sharing
Sincerity
Spontaneity
Stability
Status
Truthfulness
Tolerance
Wealth
Wisdom

Personal Values - Cultural Values

Dr. L. Robert Kohls, Director of International Programs at San Francisco State University, has developed a list of 13 commonly held values which help explain why Americans act as they do. He is careful and cautions against labeling these values as positive or negative.

Look at the values in the table below and discuss how important they seem to be to Americans and to Austrians/Europeans. Use your knowledge and impressions of Americans as you have seen them in TV shows (soap operas) and books. Use two different colors and mark the importance of each value in your table.

Then read the “*Explanation of Values*” page in your group. Take one value after the other and discuss whether you have seen or experienced any evidence that this is true. Note your findings in keywords and be prepared to discuss it in the plenary later.

Personal Control over Environment										Fate/Destiny
Change seen as natural & positive										Stability/Tradition
Control over time										Close Human Interaction
Equality /Fairness										Hierarchy/Rank/Status
Individualism/ Independence										Group Welfare/ Dependence
Self-help/initiative										Birthright/ Inheritance
Competition										Cooperation
Future Orientation										Past Orientation
Action/Work Orientation										‘Being’ Orientation
Informality										Formality
Directness/Openness Honesty										Indirectness/ Saving Face
Practicality/ Efficiency										Idealism/ Theory
Materialism/ Acquisitiveness										Spiritualism/ Detachment

*Adapted from Kohls, L. Robert and John M. Knight (1981). *Developing Intercultural Awareness*. Washington D.C.: Society for Intercultural Education, Training and Research.

INSIGHT

Behaviors reflect deeply seated values and world views.

EXPLANATION OF VALUES

Below are Kohls' explanations for the 13 values. Whether you agree with him or not, most everyone agrees that his observations are thought-provoking.

Read each paragraph, then find some examples and evidence from TV-shows, books or personal experience.

1. PERSONAL CONTROL OVER THE ENVIRONMENT / RESPONSIBILITY

Americans do not believe in the power of fate, and they look at people who do as being backward, primitive, or naive. In the American context, to be "*fatalistic*" is to be superstitious, lazy, or unwilling to take initiative. Everyone should have control over whatever in the environment might potentially affect him or her. The problems of one's life are not seen as having resulted from bad luck as much as having come from one's laziness and unwillingness to take responsibility in pursuing a better life.

2. CHANGE SEEN AS NATURAL AND POSITIVE

In the American mind, change is seen as indisputably good, leading to development, improvement, progress. Many older, more traditional cultures consider change disruptive and destructive; they value stability, continuity, tradition, and ancient heritage - none of which are considered very important in the United States.

3. TIME AND CONTROL OVER IT

Time is of utmost importance to most Americans. It is something to be on, kept, filled, saved, used, spent, wasted, lost, gained, planned, given, even killed. Americans are more concerned with getting things accomplished on time than they are with developing interpersonal relations. Their lives seem controlled by the little machines they wear on their wrists, cutting their discussions off abruptly to make their next appointment on time. This philosophy has enabled Americans to be extremely productive, and productivity is highly valued in their country.

4. EQUALITY / FAIRNESS

Equality is so cherished in the U.S. that it is seen as having a religious basis. Americans believe that all people are created equal and that all should have an equal opportunity to succeed. This concept of equality is strange to seven-eighths of the world which views status and authority as desirable, even if they happen to be near the bottom of the social order. Since Americans like to treat foreigners *"Just like anybody else"*, newcomers to the U.S. should realize that no insult or personal indignity is intended if they are treated in a less than-deferential manner by waiters in restaurants, clerks in stores and hotels, taxi drivers, and other service personnel.

5. INDIVIDUALISM / INDEPENDENCE

Americans view themselves as highly individualistic in their thoughts and actions. They resist being thought of as representatives of any homogeneous group. When they do join groups, they believe they are special. Just a little different from other members of the same group. In the U.S. you will find people freely expressing a variety of opinions anywhere and anytime. Yet, in spite of this independence, almost all Americans end up voting for one of their two major political parties. Individualism leads to **privacy**, which Americans see as desirable. The word privacy does not exist in many non-Western languages. If it does, it is likely to have a negative connotation, suggesting loneliness or forced isolation. It is not uncommon for Americans to say, and almost to believe: *"If I don't have half an hour a day to myself, I go stark-raving mad!"*

6. SELF-HELP/ INITIATIVE

Americans take credit only for what they accomplish as individuals. They get no credit for having been born into a rich family but pride themselves in having climbed the ladder of success, to whatever level, all by themselves. In an English-language dictionary, there are more than 100 composite words that have the word *"self"* as a prefix: *self-aware*, *self-confident*, *self-conscious*, *self-contented*, *self-control*, *self-criticism*, *self-deception*, *self-defeating*, *self-denial*. The equivalent of these words cannot be found in most other languages. It is an indicator of how highly Americans regard the *self-made* man or woman.

7. COMPETITION

Americans believe that competition brings out the best in any individual and in any system. This value is reflected in the American economic system of free enterprise, and it is applied in the U.S. in all areas - medicine, the arts, education, sports.

8. FUTURE ORIENTATION

Americans value the culture and the improvements the future will surely bring. They devalue the past and are, to a large extent, unconscious of the present. Even a happy present goes largely unnoticed because Americans are hopeful that the future will bring even greater happiness. Since Americans believe that humans, not fate, can and should control the environment, they are good at planning short-term projects. This ability has caused Americans to be invited to all corners of the Earth to plan, and often achieve, the miracles which their goal setting methods can produce.

9. ACTION / WORK ORIENTATION

"Don't just stand there," says a typical bit of American advice "do something!" This expression, though normally used in a crisis situation, in a sense describes most Americans' waking life, where action - any action - is seen as superior to inaction. Americans routinely schedule an extremely active day. Any relaxation must be limited in time and aimed at "recreating" so that they can work harder once their "recreation" is over. Such a "no-nonsense" attitude toward life has created a class of people known as "workaholics" - people addicted to, and often wholly identified with, their job or profession. The first question people often ask when they meet each other in the U.S. is related to work: "What do you do?" "Where do you work?" or "Who (what company) are you with?" The United States may be one of the few countries in the world where people speak about the dignity of human labor - meaning hard physical labor. Even corporation presidents will engage in physical labor from time to time and, in doing so, gain rather than lose respect from others.

10. INFORMALITY

Americans are even more informal and casual than their close relatives - the Western Europeans. For example, American bosses often urge their employees to call them by their first names and feel uncomfortable with the title "Mr." or "Ms.". Dress is another area where American informality is most noticeable, perhaps even shocking. For example, one can go to a symphony performance in any large American city and find people dressed in blue jeans. Informality is also apparent in Americans' greetings. The more formal "How are you?" has largely been replaced with an informal "Hi". This is as likely to be used with one's superior as with one's best friend.

11. DIRECTNESS / OPENNESS / HONESTY

Many other countries have developed subtle, sometimes highly ritualistic, ways of informing others of unpleasant information. Americans prefer the direct approach. They are likely to be completely honest in delivering their negative evaluations, and to consider, anything other than the most direct and open approach to be "dishonest" and "insincere". Anyone in the U.S. who uses an intermediary to deliver the message will also be considered "manipulative" and "untrustworthy". If you come from a country

where saving face is important, be assured that Americans are not trying to make you lose face with their directness.

12. PRACTICALITY / EFFICIENCY

Americans have a reputation for being realistic, practical, and efficient. The practical consideration is likely to be given highest priority in making any important decision. Americans pride themselves in not being very philosophically or theoretically oriented. If Americans would even admit to having a philosophy, it would probably be that of pragmatism. *Will it make money? What is the bottom line? What can I gain from this activity?* These are the kinds of questions Americans are likely to ask, rather than: *is it aesthetically pleasing? Will it be enjoyable? Will it advance the cause of knowledge?* This pragmatic orientation has caused Americans to contribute more inventions to the world than any other country in human history. The love of "**practicality**" has also caused Americans to view some professions more favorably than others. Management and economics are much more popular in the United States than philosophy or anthropology, and law and medicine more valued than the arts. Americans belittle "**emotional**" and "**subjective**" evaluations in favor of "**rational**" and "**objective**" assessments. Americans try to avoid being "**too sentimental**" in making their decisions. They judge every situation "**on its own merits**".

13. MATERIALISM / ACQUISITIVENESS

Foreigners generally consider Americans much more materialistic than Americans are likely to consider themselves. Americans would like to think that their material objects are just the "**natural benefits**" that result from hard work and serious intent - a reward, they think, which all people could enjoy were they as industrious and hard-working as Americans. But by any standard, Americans are materialistic. They give a higher priority to obtaining, maintaining, and protecting material objects than they do in developing and enjoying relationships with people. Since Americans value newness and innovation, they sell or throw away their possessions frequently and replace them with newer ones. A car may be kept for only two or three years, a house for five or six before buying a new one.

Tree House

Tree House

By Alden R. Carter

Last but not least: Read the story “Tree House” by Alden R. Carter and see which of the above values are represented in the story. Find examples of the characters’ behavior that derive from those values. Fill in the chart below:

Characters	Physical Appearance	Personality and Attitude towards his/her surroundings	Personal Values
Mom/Dad			
Richard			
Phil			
Sonia			
Uncle Sean			
Morgan			

