

Literature Focus Unit
Activities Based on
Roll of Thunder Hear My Cry

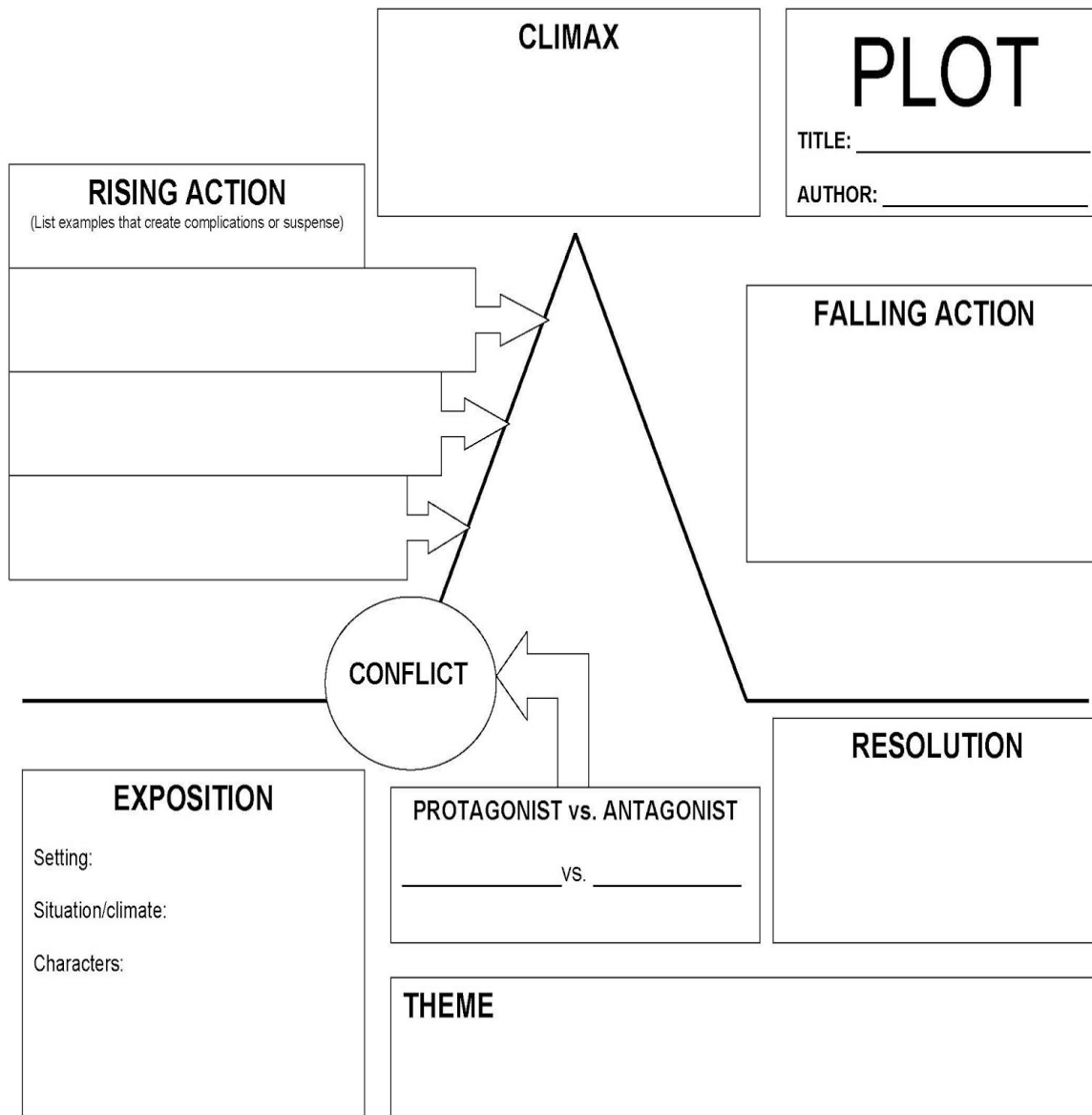
Portfolio 10.2

**Samantha Ely, Kristen Mielke, Alli Songstad,
Morgan Weyhrauch**

Dr. Browne

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Reading



Social Studies

Students will be split into six groups. Each group will receive a picture and discuss the answers to these questions as a group. The groups can use each other and the internet to find information. The groups will then present their findings to the class.

What is the picture showing?

How might this relate to the book?

List three facts about the picture?

Describe what the picture means.

Picture of segregation



Confederate flag picture



Map of Mississippi



from

Pictures of rural Mississippi
the 1930s





Family

Values

Family is very important to the characters in Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry. Now, you will interview two different people in your family. Have one interview be from your parents' generation and the other interview from your grandparents' generation. There are five mandatory questions, and you must select *at least five* questions from the following list.

Mandatory Questions

- 1) What is your full name? Why did your parents select this name for you? Did you have a nickname?
- 2) When and where were you born? How did your family come to live there? Were there other family members in the area? Who?
- 3) What world events had the most impact on you while you were growing up? Did any of them personally affect your family?
- 4) How is the world today different from what it was like when you were a child?

Ask them at least 5 of the following questions:

- 5) What was the house (apartment, farm, etc.) like? How many rooms? Bathrooms? Did it have electricity? Indoor plumbing? Telephones?
- 6) Were there any special items in the house that you remember?
- 7) What was your favorite thing to do for fun (movies, beach, etc.)?
- 8) Did you have family chores? What were they? Which was your least favorite?
- 9) Did you receive an allowance? How much? Did you save your money or spend it?
- 10) What was school like for you as a child? What were your best and worst subjects? Where did you attend grade school? High school? College?
- 11) What school activities and sports did you participate in?
- 12) Do you remember any fads from your youth? Popular hairstyles? Clothes?
- 13) What were your favorite songs and music?
- 14) Did you have any pets? If so, what kind and what were their names?
- 15) What was your religion growing up? What church, if any, did you attend?
- 16) Were you ever mentioned in a newspaper?
- 17) Who were your friends when you were growing up?
- 18) Describe a typical family dinner. Did you all eat together as a family? Who did the cooking? What were your favorite foods?
- 19) How were holidays (birthdays, Christmas, etc.) celebrated in your family? Did your family have special traditions?
- 20) Who was the oldest relative you remember as a child? What do you remember about them?
- 21) What do you know about your family surname?
- 22) What stories have come down to you about your parents? Grandparents? More distant ancestors?
- 23) Are there any stories about famous or infamous relatives in your family?
- 24) Are there any physical characteristics that run in your family?
- 25) Are there any special heirlooms, photos, bibles or other memorabilia that have been passed down in your family?

Fine Arts

Dramatization of Specific Chapters

For this activity, the class will be grouped into groups of four students. There will be six groups, and there are twelve chapters in Roll of Thunder Hear My Cry. Each group will be assigned two chapters throughout the book. With your group, you will dramatize a specific scene from one of those two chapters. You will be expected to perform this skit to the class.

Skit Checklist

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Students introduced the character roles of the skit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Students used costumes in the skit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Students used props in the skit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Students spoke and acted with expression during the skit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | |

- Students used an accurate voice
- Students correctly portrayed the plot of the scene
- Students used detail in their skits
- All group members actively participate in the skit
- Students incorporate background music into the skit
- Skit is kept within 4-5 minutes
- Students were prepared for the performance

Writing

Text to Self Connection

After each chapter, students will write a letter to a character in that chapter. The letter will address:

- A specific character in the chapter
- The character will relate to a specific scene
- How the scene and character made the student feel
- Why the scene made them feel the way they did
- A text to self connection

The letter will be:

- Properly addressed and formatted
- Handwritten - neatly
- At least half of a page

This letter allows the student to express how they felt while reading specific scenes in the chapter. They can write their feelings in this letter addressed to the character that was most

impacted in the scene. It allows the students to put their thoughts to paper, improving their comprehension.

Guided Practice:

For example: The scene when Cassie was knocked off the curb by Mr. Simms and forced to apologize to Lillian Jean was a very emotional scene. The student could write a letter to Cassie, describing how they felt sad because she was treated so poorly. Maybe the student was treated unfairly once in his/her life, and then they can share it with Cassie.