

Student Packet

Grades 7–8

# The Contender

Robert Lipsyte

NOVEL UNITS<sup>®</sup>



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# THE CONTENDER

by  
Robert Lipsyte

## Student Packet

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**Contains masters for:**

- 3 Prereading Activities
- 4 Vocabulary Activities
- 1 Study Guide
- 2 Critical Thinking Activities
- 6 Literary Analysis Activities
- 3 Writing Activities
- 2 Comprehension Quizzes (two levels)
- 2 Unit Exams (two levels)
- Detailed Answer Key

**PLUS**

**Note**

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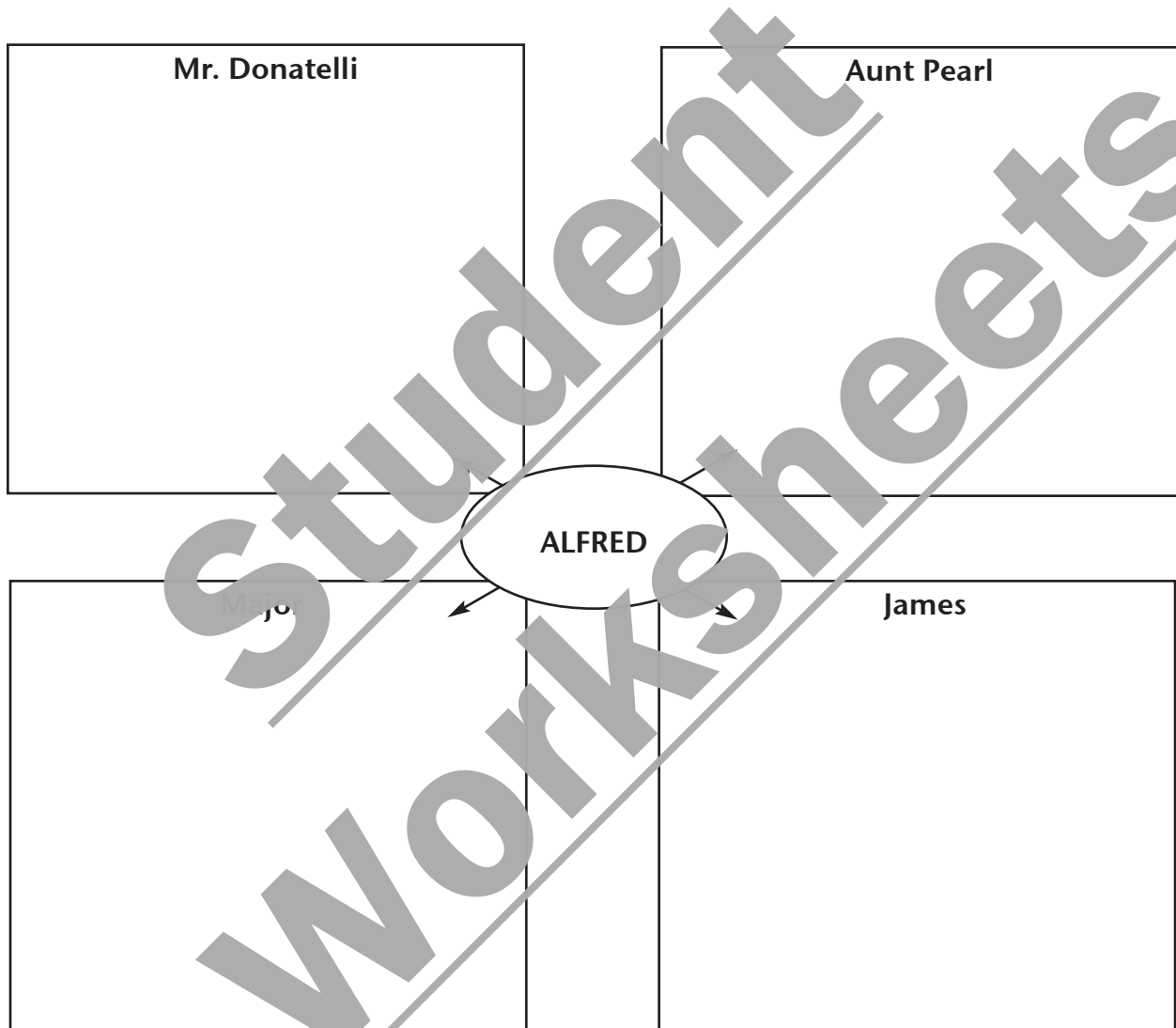
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Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:** Think or talk about Alfred’s relationships with the following people: Mr. Donatelli, Aunt Pearl, Major, James. Then assume the point of view of Mr. Donatelli. Think about how you would describe Alfred if you were Mr. Donatelli. Individually or in small groups, come up with words or phrases that Mr. Donatelli might use to describe Alfred and put them in the appropriate box. Repeat this process for Aunt Pearl, Major, and James.



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**Writing Activity:** Write the conversation that some of the characters might have about Alfred. Role-play the conversation for your class.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:** Two steps in problem solving are: (a) **brainstorming** possible solutions and (b) **measuring** each against specific criteria. After James is arrested and Alfred is beaten up by Major, Alfred feels depressed about his life. What could he do at this point to improve his life and his future? Help him decide.

- (a) Read his choices in the chart below and add another one of your own.
- (b) Read the criteria ("yardstick" questions) which measure whether a particular decision is a good one. Add another of your own.
- (c) Score each decision: 1=yes, 2=maybe, 3=no
- (d) Circle the choice you think is best.

Possible Choices ↓	Criteria		
	Will I feel better about myself?	Will this open career doors to me?	Will this be physically safe?
1. stay in bed			
2. train to be a boxer			
3. take drugs			
4. help rob the store			
5. go back to school			
6.			

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