

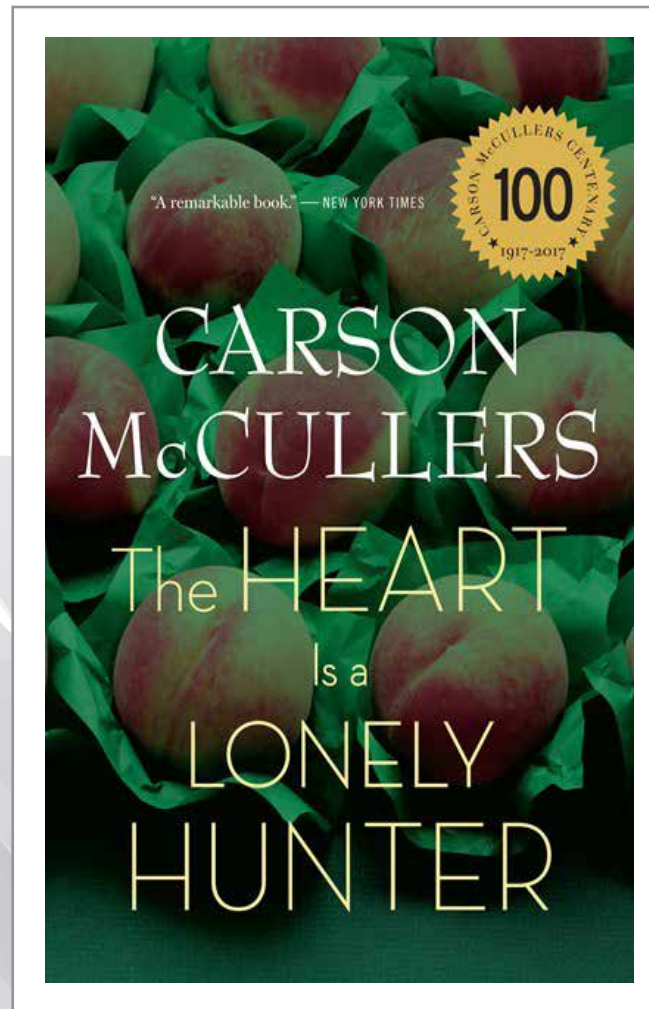


STUDENT PACKET

GRADES 9-12

The Heart is a Lonely Hunter

Carson McCullers



READ, WRITE, THINK, DISCUSS AND CONNECT

The Heart is a Lonely Hunter

Carson McCullers

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NOTE:

The trade book edition of the novel used to prepare this guide is found in the Novel Units catalog and on the Novel Units website. Using other editions may have varied page references.

Please note: We have assigned Interest Levels based on our knowledge of the themes and ideas of the books included in the Novel Units sets, however, please assess the appropriateness of this novel or trade book for the age level and maturity of your students prior to reading with them. You know your students best!

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Name _____

Directions: Rate the following statements before you read the story. Compare and discuss your ratings with a partner. After you have completed the novel, discuss the ratings again in light of the story.

1 ————— 2 ————— 3 ————— 4 ————— 5 ————— 6

agree strongly strongly disagree

	Before	After
1. All Americans are free.	_____	_____
2. The law is the same for everyone, regardless of race.	_____	_____
3. From each according to his ability, to each according to his needs.	_____	_____
4. It is possible to be lonely in a crowd.	_____	_____
5. Turn the other cheek.	_____	_____
6. An eye for an eye.	_____	_____
7. The most interesting things are those that don't occur.	_____	_____
8. Solitude is one of the happiest routes to happiness.	_____	_____
9. Nobody loses—or wins—all of the time.	_____	_____
10. "There is an immense amount of biased listening and inaccurate listening." (Eric Sevareid, on the occasion of his retirement from CBS TV)	_____	_____
11. There are secrets in all families.	_____	_____
12. One will endure who asks nothing of life.	_____	_____
13. There is nothing wrong with chasing rainbows.	_____	_____
14. Humanity will not only endure, it will prevail. (paraphrased from William Faulkner)	_____	_____
15. "The world is too much with us..." (Wordsworth)	_____	_____

Name _____

Character Groupings

Directions: Similarities among characters are sometimes a clue to themes in the story. Think about ways of grouping the characters in the novel based upon some common element. For example: One reader might say that Singer and Antonapoulos are both deaf; Jake and Dr. Copeland both seek an end to oppression; Singer, Dr. Copeland, and Jake all experience a sense of isolation.

1. Name each group and label each with a symbol. (The grouping and labeling have been started for you.)

Character	Groupings Which Apply to this Character	Symbols for All Groupings (Add More)
Singer		# deaf
Antonapoulos		^ argue against oppression
Jake		{ } feel isolated
Biff		
Mick		
Bubber		
Dr. Copeland		
Portia		

2. Pick one grouping and write an essay on the following:

What do you think Carson McCullers is trying to say about this grouping? What common experience do all members of the particular group you chose share? Do these characters cope with their problems in similar ways? What generalization might the author be making?

Name _____

The Heart Is a Lonely Hunter
Activity #19 • Values Chart Groupings
Use After Reading

Directions: To understand the story, you need to think about the values that drive the individual characters, the things each finds important. Look at each of the 15 values listed below. Take Dr. Copeland’s point of view and rank order the values from most (1) to least (15) important. Jot down reasons for your rankings, with page references if you wish. In small groups, compare your rankings with other group members’ and defend your choices with supportive evidence from the story.

(You may choose to repeat this process, taking viewpoints of different characters. Then rank your own values. Which character seems to share your values most closely?)

Value	Ranking	Reason for Ranking
Money	_____	_____
Freedom	_____	_____
Family	_____	_____
Work	_____	_____
Religion	_____	_____
Helping Others	_____	_____
Physical Appearance	_____	_____
Politics	_____	_____
Health	_____	_____
Education	_____	_____
Friendship	_____	_____
Material Possessions	_____	_____
Acceptance	_____	_____
Achievement	_____	_____
Aesthetics	_____	_____