

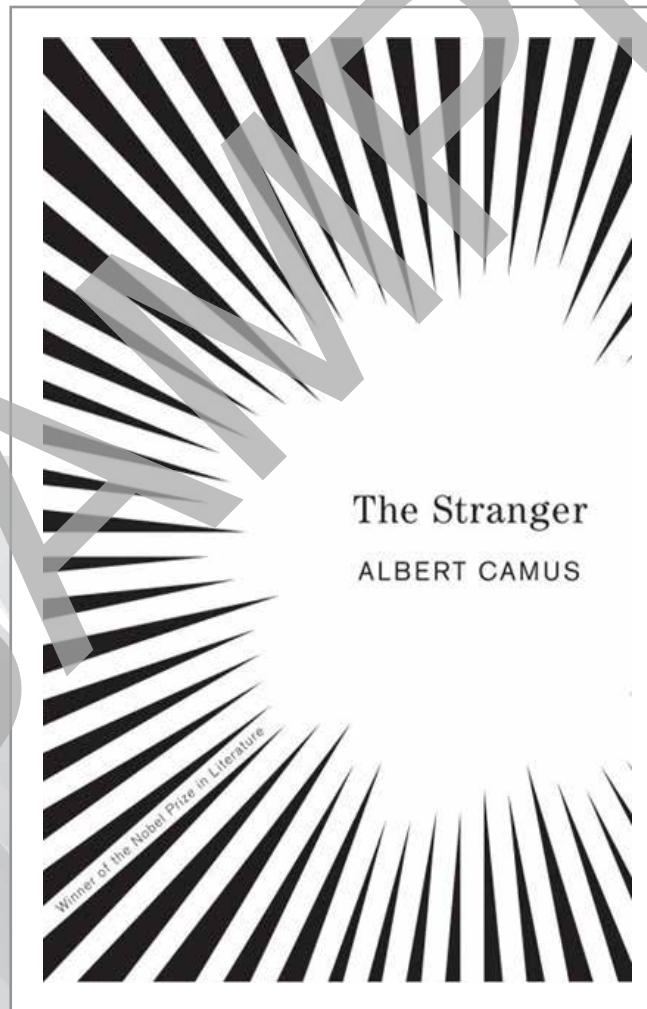


STUDENT PACKET

GRADES 9-12

The Stranger

Albert Camus



READ, WRITE, THINK, DISCUSS AND CONNECT

The Stranger

Albert Camus

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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 _____

Meursault, the narrator and protagonist of *The Stranger*, will probably surprise you by his unwillingness to follow the accepted rules of society. He doesn't do what most people would do in a given situation.

Directions: Place yourself—mentally and emotionally—in each of the situations described below. How would you act? What would you say? Jot down your thoughts in the right-hand column. Then, with a partner, choose one situation and role-play it.

Situation

My Behavior

1. You are at your mother's funeral. Her friends have kept vigil with you all night. You are now walking to the cemetery with them.

2. Someone you like—but don't love—has just asked you if you want to get married.

3. Your boss informs you that you've been chosen for a job opportunity in Paris.

4. Your next-door neighbor constantly beats his old, sick dog.

5. You are arrested for murdering a man—but it was self-defense.

6. The prison chaplain comes to offer you spiritual comfort.

Directions: Using separate paper, write an answer to each question. Use your answers during class discussion, to write essays, and to review for tests.

PART ONE

Chapter 1

1. The first sentence of Chapter 1 is one of the most famous “opening lines” in literature. What was your reaction when you read the first paragraph?
2. Can you tell how Meursault feels about anything he mentions as he gets ready to leave for the funeral?
3. Does Meursault seem to feel guilty about putting his mother in the home—or is he just defensive?
4. Do you think it was rude for the caretaker and Meursault to smoke while they were sitting by the casket—or do you agree with Meursault that it didn’t matter?
5. What things does Meursault notice as he keeps vigil?
6. Who is Thomas Pérez—and how does his behavior contrast with that of Meursault?
7. Skim the chapter for references to light and heat. What mental images and/or physical sensations do you experience as you read these descriptions?

Chapters 2 & 3

1. Does it seem that Meursault’s boss is treating Meursault unfairly?
2. Who is Marie Cardona? What surprised her (page 20)?
3. How do you interpret the lines “I felt like telling her it wasn’t my fault...” and “Besides, you always feel a little guilty” (page 20)?
4. Why do you think Camus had Meursault spend an entire Sunday, a beautiful afternoon, inside in his rather depressing room?
5. Meursault is keenly aware of physical sensations. Give some examples. Is he as aware of his emotional responses to things?
6. Does Meursault seem to have any sympathy for either old Salamano or the dog?
7. What sort of person is Raymond? What advice would you like to give Meursault about becoming a friend of Raymond’s?
8. What favor does Meursault do for Raymond?

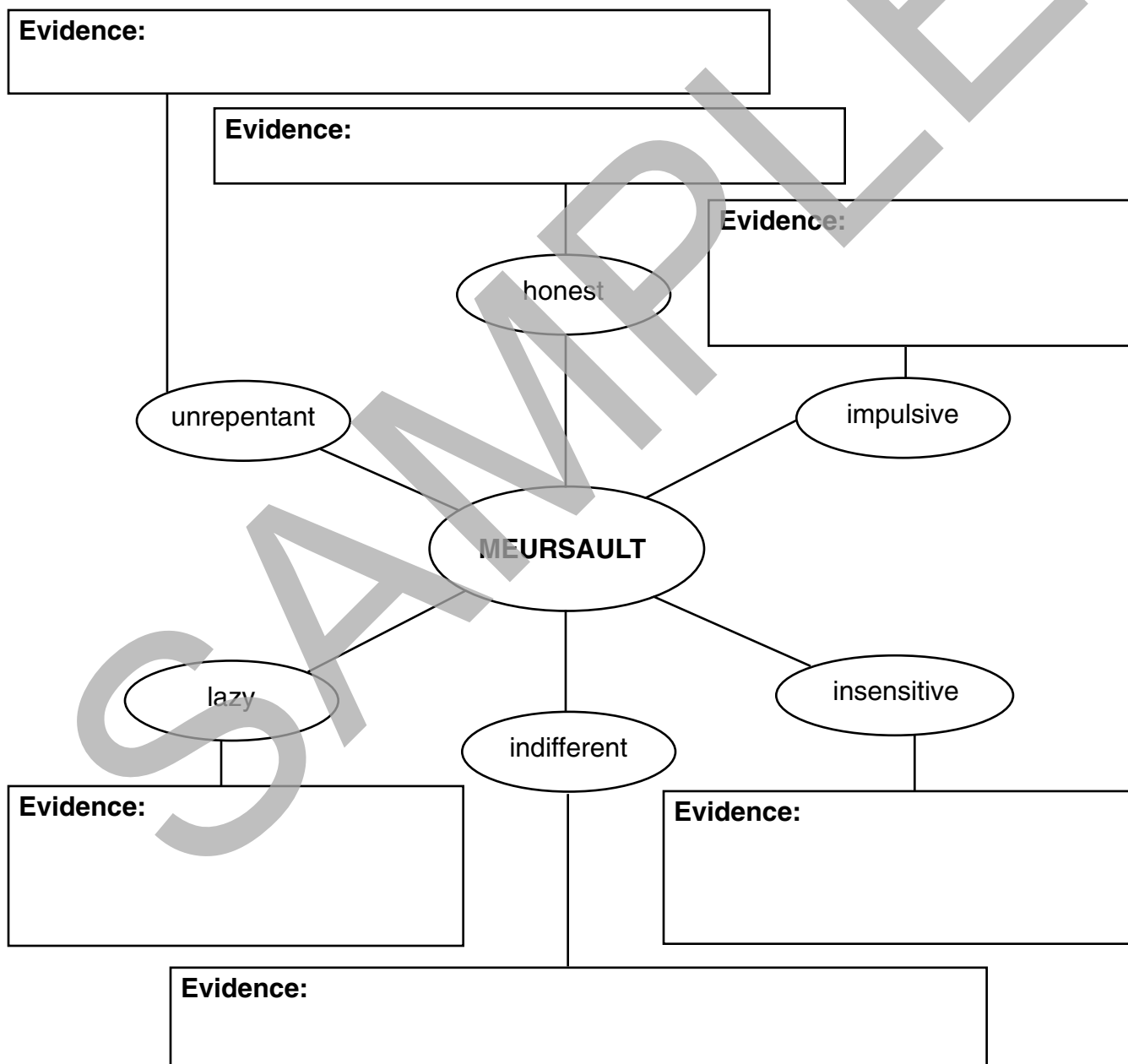
Chapters 4 & 5

1. As you read Meursault’s description of the Saturday he and Marie spent at the beach (page 34-35), did you have the feeling that something was missing in the narrative? If so, what?

Name _____

Meet Monsieur Meursault

Directions: If you're observant as you continue reading *The Stranger*, you will find out more about Meursault. Begin the attribute web below, and add to it as you continue to read. Remember, you are looking for evidence that he exhibits the qualities noted on the map. (Feel free to add more ovals for other qualities you find, and more rectangles for evidence.)



Directions: Meursault is presented with a number of choices. For each choice listed, jot down the decision he made and fill in the “effects” box. Then write in an alternate decision, and tell what the probable effects of that choice would have been.

<p>The director asks if he wants to have his mother’s casket opened.</p> <p>decision in novel:</p> <p>alternate decision:</p>	<p>The director asks if he wants to have his mother’s casket opened.</p> <p>effects:</p> <p>effects:</p>
<p>Marie asks Meursault if he wants to get married.</p> <p>decision in novel:</p> <p>alternate decision:</p>	<p>Marie asks Meursault if he wants to get married.</p> <p>effects:</p> <p>effects:</p>
<p>Meursault’s boss offers him a transfer to Paris.</p> <p>decision in novel:</p> <p>alternate decision:</p>	<p>Meursault’s boss offers him a transfer to Paris.</p> <p>effects:</p> <p>effects:</p>

Name _____

The Stranger
Activity #13 • Sociogram
Use After Reading

Directions: Meursault is alienated, alone. The examining magistrate, defense attorney, prosecuting attorney, and the chaplain all are frustrated by him. Complete the sociogram below. On the spokes around each character's name, write adjectives that describe the character. On the arrows pointing from Meursault toward the character, jot a phrase describing Meursault's thoughts about the character. On the arrows pointing back to Meursault, write a phrase or two to describe how the characters feel about Meursault.

