

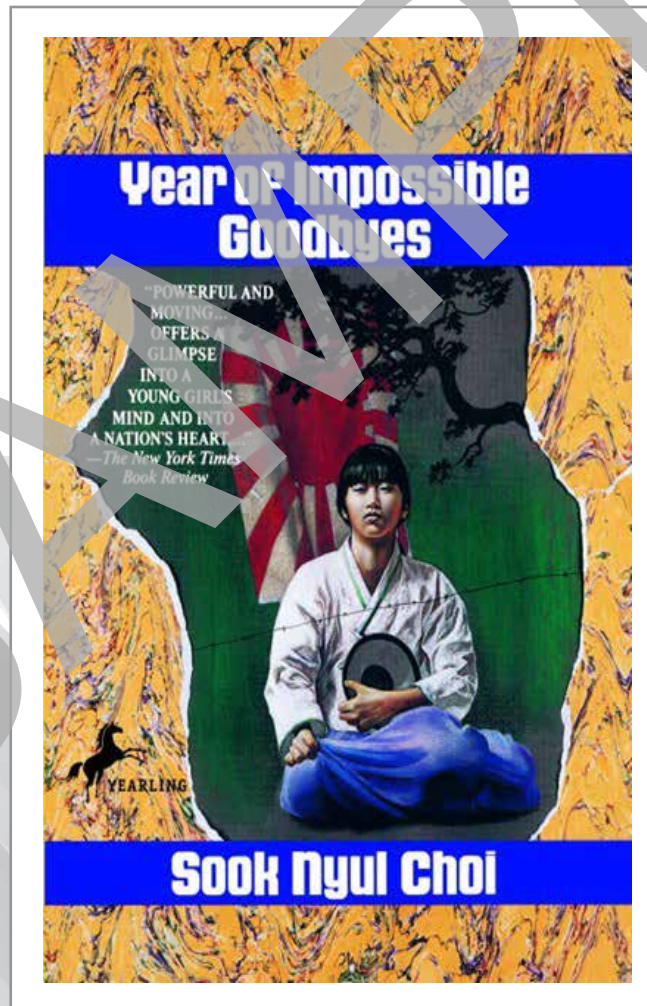


STUDENT PACKET

GRADES 6-8

Year of Impossible Goodbyes

Sook Nyul Choi



READ, WRITE, THINK, DISCUSS AND CONNECT

Year of Impossible Goodbyes

Sook Nyul Choi

STUDENT PACKET

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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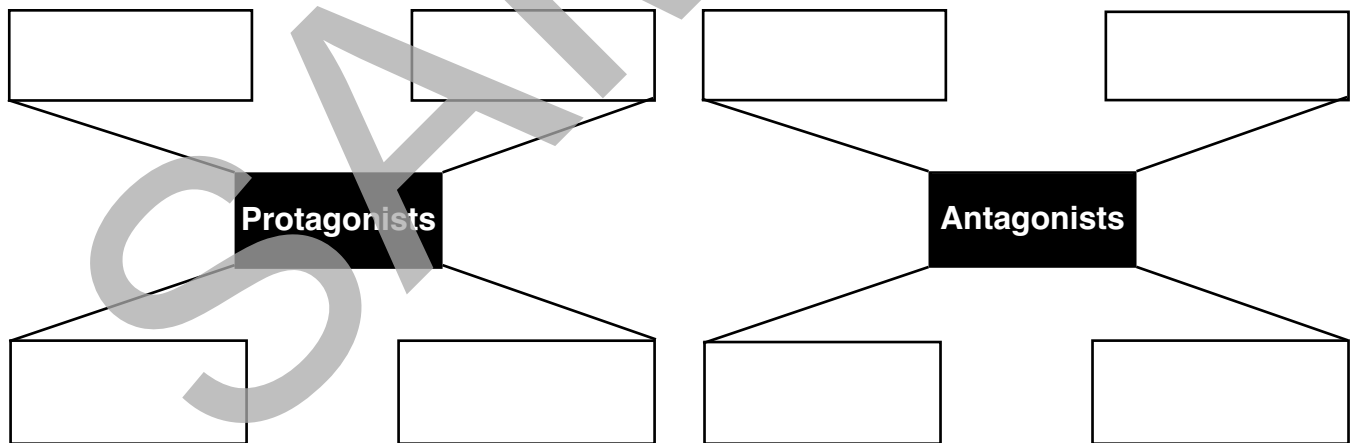
Name _____

The main character in a story is called the protagonist. Sometimes we call the **protagonist** the hero or heroine (the "good" person). The character who opposes the hero in a story is called the **antagonist**. Sometimes we call the antagonist the villain (the "bad" person).

Directions: Think about stories you have read. Who were some of the protagonists (heroes/heroines) in these stories? Who were the antagonists (villains)? List some of the protagonists and antagonists and the stories in which they appeared.

Protagonists	Antagonists	Story

Complete the chart below by listing some common characteristics of protagonists and antagonists. For example, a protagonist is often brave. An antagonist may be cunning or cruel. Sometimes the antagonist is not just a person but a belief or custom.



As you read *Year of Impossible Goodbyes*, decide who is the protagonist and who or what is the antagonist. Notice their characteristics and compare/contrast them to the characters you listed in the chart above.

Name _____

9. How many nights do Sookan and Inchun stay in the barn and search for their mother?
10. Where do the Russian soldiers take Sookan and Inchun?
11. Who is questioned first by the Russian officer?
12. What does the Russian Captain tell Sookan?
13. What do Sookan and Inchun see as they walk toward the guardhouse?
14. Who does Sookan think might be in the warehouse?
15. What does Sookan give Inchun when he begins to cry?

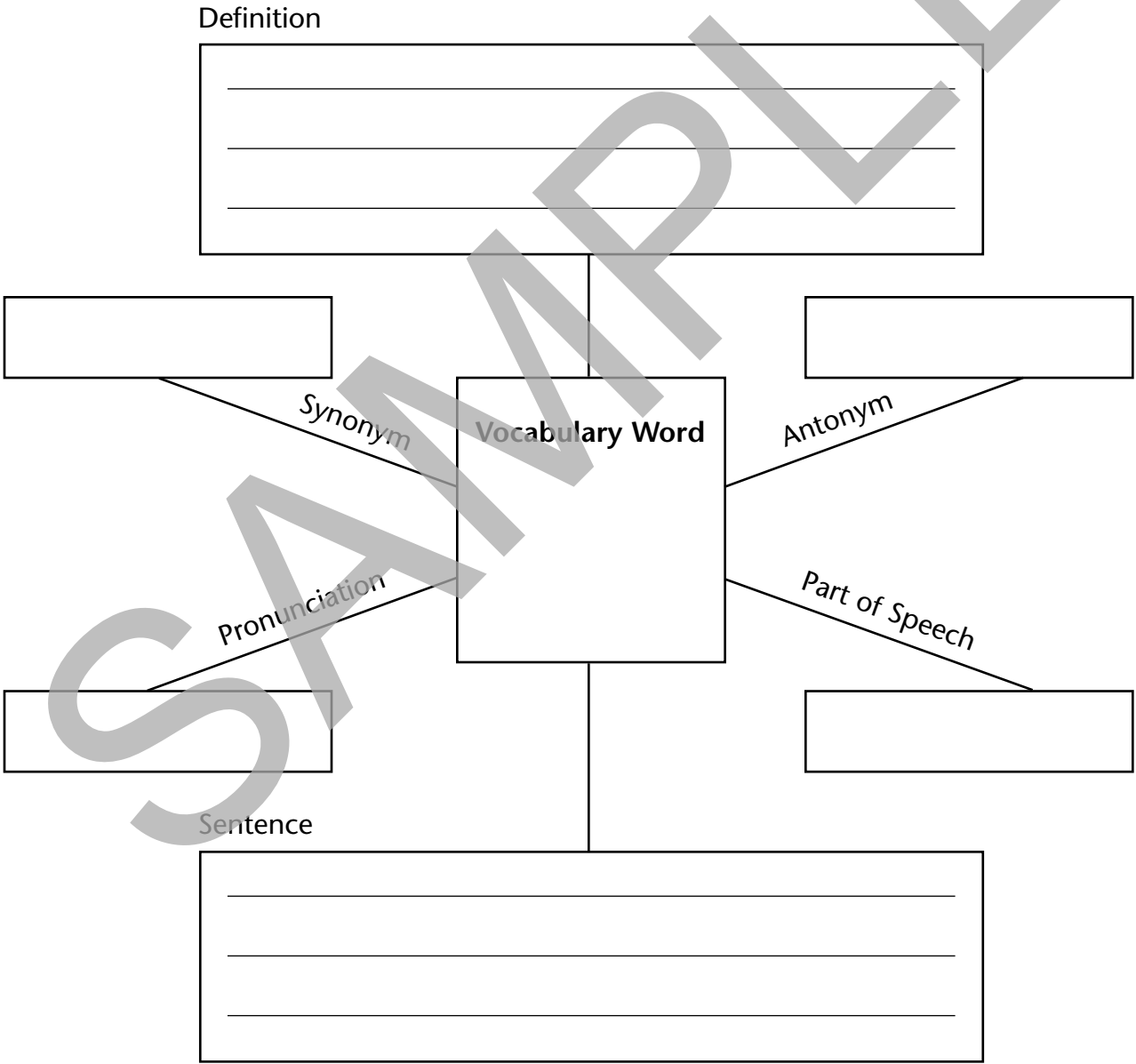
Chapter Ten and Epilogue, pp. 153–169

1. Where do Inchun and Sookan rest after arriving at the train station?
2. Why does Inchun cry himself to sleep?
3. How do Inchun and Sookan look as they rest on the wooden floor?
4. Who startles Sookan as she dozes off?
5. Where does the old man tell the children to go?
6. What does the old man give Sookan?
7. To whom is Sookan supposed to give the ticket stub?
8. What does the old conductor say to the children as he punches their ticket?
9. Who does Sookan see as she walks to the end of the platform?
10. What does the old conductor tell the children to do as he shields them from view?
11. What does Sookan imagine is in the cornfield?
12. What is the reason that Inchun wants to start down the hill?
13. What does the spotlight look like to Inchun?
14. What do the children hear as it begins to rain on them?
15. What do Inchun and Sookan see as they reach the top of the hill covered with trees?
16. What unexpected obstacle do the children encounter?
17. How do they get to the Thirty-eighth Parallel?
18. Who rescues them on the other side of the fence?
19. Where do the children go after recuperating at the Red Cross camp?
20. What happens to their mother?

Name _____

- | | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| meandered (103) | capitalistic (104) | tungsten (104) | incredulously (104) |
| brainwashed (106) | boisterous (107) | proletariat (108) | Marxism (108) |
| incessantly (110) | fervently (110) | philosophy (110) | monotonous (110) |
| traitors (111) | candor (112) | plotting (114) | vigorously (114) |
| wary (114) | converted (114) | profusely (115) | |

Directions: Complete the graphic organizer for each vocabulary word from the list above.



Name _____

Conflict

The **conflict** of a story is the struggle between two people or two forces. There are three main types of conflict: person against person, person against nature or society, person against him/herself.

Directions: Sookan’s family experiences many conflicts during the story. In the chart below, list the names of three major characters. In the space provided, list a conflict each character experienced. Then, explain how each conflict is resolved in the story.

Character: _____

Conflict	Resolution

Character: _____

Conflict	Resolution

Character: _____

Conflict	Resolution