

## Character Analysis Mandala

### **Part One:**

The Mandala - A mandala is a visual display of symbols that represents a person's view of the world. It is traditionally organized using patterns and symbols. You will create your own version of a mandala to represent a character from the novel. Remember, the mandala should illustrate who the character is and what is most important to him/her.

The Inner Circle—the center of your mandala represents the “heart and soul” of the character. The inner circle of your mandala should contain one symbol that represents one of the following:

Your character's greatest inspiration

Your character's values or beliefs

Your character's most important quality or personality trait

The Middle Circle—this is the largest part of your mandala. This middle circle should contain at least three symbols. These symbols can represent:

Challenges your character faced in the story

Important events your character experienced in the story

An emotion your character experienced in the story

A life lesson your character learned in the story

A goal or dream your character has

A triumph or victory your character experienced in the story

Something that helped “shape” your character, or make your character the person he/she is

The Outer Circle—this is the one and only part of your mandala that will contain any words. The outer circle consists of a quote or passage from the story that connects to your character. It could reflect his/her beliefs, actions, or attitude in some way. This quote should be written around the perimeter of your mandala. The words should encircle the perimeter completely. You may repeat the quote as many times as needed to fill up the perimeter of your mandala.

Designing Your Mandala—Once you have brainstormed your four (or more) symbols and your quotation, you must organize your ideas into a mandala design. Your design should include the following elements:

Be circular in shape

Show a symmetrical pattern

Be arranged according to the three layers described above

Be neat, colorful, and visually expressive (symbols should clearly represent ideas)

Have minimal white space—your designs should fill your entire circle

Show attention to detail Some things to Remember:

A symbol is not simply a drawing! It is a single object or design that represents an idea.

Colors, animals and objects have global meanings that have been used for thousands of years. For example, a chopped down tree could represent the fact that life is short. A dove is traditionally used as a symbol of peace. Red is a passionate color. Your symbols should not be drawings of things that happened in the story; however, your symbols can be either objects that already exist in the story or objects that commonly represent the idea you are trying to convey.

**Part Two:**

**Character Mandala Planning Sheet**

**Character** \_\_\_\_\_

**Inner Circle:** Character's personality trait \_\_\_\_\_

Symbol representing that trait: Object \_\_\_\_\_ Color \_\_\_\_\_

Explanation of how the object represents the character trait \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

**Middle Circle:** (challenge, important event, emotion, lesson, goal, or victory)

Symbol 1: Object \_\_\_\_\_ Color \_\_\_\_\_

Explanation of how you are using the object and color \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

Symbol 2: Object \_\_\_\_\_ Color \_\_\_\_\_

Explanation of how you are using the object and color \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

Symbol 3: Object \_\_\_\_\_ Color \_\_\_\_\_

Explanation of how you are using the object and color \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

**Outer Circle:** quote from the story that reflects his beliefs, actions, attitude \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

Explanation of how the quote reflects his beliefs, actions, attitude \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

