

### Active Reading Guidesheet -- Drama

Use this guidesheet for the first few readings of the semester -- after that, I expect you to ask these questions of every reading *on your own*. (Make more copies of this template sheet for your own use.) If you need further help with what each question means, refer to *Signs of Life in the U.S.A.* 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, p.22.

• **On the back of this sheet, record any *questions* that you would ask this text.** •

**drama terms:** (look for in *Holt* as well, 749-51)  
antagonist (*M* 100, 159, *Bed* 14)    climax (*M* 96, 157, *Bed* 50)  
comedy (*Bed* 53-54)    conflict (*Bed* 59)  
dynamic character (*Bed* 43-44)  
flat character (*Bed* 43-44)    foil (*Bed* 131)  
lyric (*Bed* 194)    tragedy (*Bed* 403-07)

Assigned reading **title**: \_\_\_\_\_ Text pages:

**Author**: \_\_\_\_\_ Pertinent facts about author from intro ¶ ?:

**Where and when** did this text *originally* appear?

What is the author's **argument/point**, in your own words?

Copy what you think is the author's **thesis statement** here (unless the thesis is only implied) :

What **kind** of writing is this -- what's the **genre**?

Who do you think is the **intended audience**? (Toward whom does this text seem aimed?)

Describe the author's **style and tone**. What is the writing like? What is the author's attitude toward the reader?

What **evidence or illustrations** does the writer give to support the thesis/claim? Briefly list them out and record the respective page number next to each item for quick reference:

What are the *underlying assumptions* that the author takes for granted here? Does the author offer alternative views or arguments? If so, record the pages and ¶s.

Copy (and define) any *key terms or special/technical vocabulary* that the author uses, especially if you had to look it up in a dictionary. (E.g. terms used early in the essay or in prominent places, or terms repeated throughout the essay):