

“The Painted Door” Mind-Map

What is it?

A mind map is a visual representation of your understanding of the relationships among characters and the key elements within the story.

Organization

Organize this is a way that makes sense to you; however, consider that it must also make sense to your reader. I should be able to understand the plot, themes, and important elements in the story. It can be drawn, computer generated, or “cut and paste.”

Use of pictures, symbols, shapes, colors, and varying line styles to illustrate your understanding of the relationships between the characters and the main ideas in the story. Graphically illustrate the changing relationships, the traits of each character, and the emerging conflicts.

What should it look like?

The central characters are placed at the center of the page and the other characters are placed around him/her. The spatial relationship on the page should in some way represent each of the character’s relationship with the main character, as well as with each other. Lines/arrows are used to show the “direction and nature” of the relationship (e.g., strength/weakness, friend/foe, dominance/submissiveness, etc.).

Generate ideas and create a rough diagram and decide the best way to reflect your understanding of the text. Next, on a larger piece of paper/poster construct the mind map.

A number of conventions may be useful in developing the mind map:

- Place the central characters at the center of the diagram
- Let the physical distance between characters reflect the perceived psychological distance between the characters
- Include 3-4 important images in the story, the dominant symbols (eg: the paint, the storm), foreshadowing, and the theme of the story.
- Let the size/shape/symbol of a character metaphorically represent each personality, importance, one’s power or lack of, etc.
- Show the direction of a relationship by an arrow/line, and its nature by a brief label (the lines can be creatively applied: What might the following types of lines indicate? A jagged line? A wavy line? A broken line? The thickness of the line? Etc.)
- Illustrate the tone and or theme of a piece by the use of color or visual symbols.

Mark Distribution:

___/30 – **Content** (Comprehension and representation of the above elements)

___/20 – **Creativity** (must be colourful, neat, have pictures, and exhibit thoughtful understanding, planning, and organization)