

## SHORT STORY JENGA

Directions: As your group plays Jenga, look at the number written on each of the Jenga blocks that you pull (1-54). Match the block number to the question below. Read the question aloud, and then answer it in full based on your reading of the short story assigned. You are allowed to ask your group for help if you need it.

Rules:

1. Each member of the group is required to play. Members must go in whatever order is decided by group.
2. Once a block is pulled and sufficiently answered by the original member, and then opened to discussion by all members, place the block back on top of the Jenga stack.
3. If you pull a highlighted number, that question must be answered on paper by the entire group and turned in at the end of class. If you pull the number, answer the question; do not pretend like it wasn't pulled.
4. If the tower falls, the member who made the tower fall must respond to one of the "Crash Questions" at the bottom of the page. Draw a number from the cup; that is the question/task you will respond to before moving on.
5. Jenga will be played in small groups for 45 minutes, at which time, we will open to a large group discussion to gain a bigger picture of your insights, commentary, and thought process.
6. If the same person pulls the same number twice, you will respond to a crash question instead.

Number on block	Question
1 or 28	If you had to divide this story into meaningful sections, what would they be?
2 or 29	Find an example of figurative language in the short story and tie it to a major message in the story.

3 or 30	Why was the plot structured this way?
4 or 31	Are there any contrasting characters/foils in this story?
5 or 32	Explain how any character changes over the course of the story.
6 or 33	Find a piece of textual evidence that reveals a nuance about a character.
7 or 34	Find an example of direct characterization.
8 or 35	Find an example of indirect characterization.
9 or 36	What character(s) in this story is/are complex? Explain.
10 or 37	Identify text that reveals a setting detail.
11 or 38	What is the function of a specific setting in the story?
12 or 39	What relationships exist between characters and setting?
13 or 40	Explain how a character remains unchanged in the story.
14 or 41	Identify a major conflict in the text.
15 or 42	Identify a minor conflict in the text.
16 or 43	Explain a pivotal moment in the plot.
17 or 44	Explain who is narrating the story.
18 or 45	Why is the narrator's point of view valuable to this story?
19 or 46	Find a detail or example of syntax that reveals something about the narrator's perspective.
20 or 47	Is the narrator reliable? How do we know?
21 or 48	Does the narrator's reliability affect the story?
22 or 49	Create a 3X3 theme statement for this story.
23 or 50	What human connection could you spiral through an essay about this story?
24 or 51	What critical lens would you use to write about this story?
25 or 52	Identify a word that delighted you in this story. What denotation and connotation does it have in this context?

26 or 53	Unpack a potential symbol in the text.
27 or 54	Select and read a vivid example of imagery from the text.

CRASH QUESTIONS: Pick a number from the cup and respond to the crash number below. Once someone picks the crash question, it can't be picked again so put that number to the side.

1. Give your best impression of a certain character.

2. Choose a random sentence in the story and work through the steps of [Lectio Divina](#).

First, close your eyes and point to a random sentence in the story. Then, work through these steps:

1. Literal: what is literally going on in the story around this sentence?
2. Allegory: What symbols or representations of other texts do you hear in the sentence? What could they mean or point to?
3. \*Adjusted steps 3 & 4: Human connection. What major topic or message is referenced in this sentence? Does it tie to a message from the work as a whole?

3. Try to name each character in the book (in order of appearance).

4. Select a chunk of the text and dedicate 5 minutes to Sacred Imagination.

One person will read a chunk of text and everyone else should close their eyes and imagine themselves into the text. What are you seeing/hearing/smelling/feeling/tasting? You might be a specific character in your imagination, or you might be a "fly on the wall".

5. Who would you cast as [pick a character] in your movie adaptation of this novel? Why this person?

6. What celebrity/famous person from history would enjoy this book? Why?

7. Make a hashtag for this short story.

8. Dedicate 5 minutes to Havruta.

Havruta is a Jewish practice that reinforces the Jewish belief that we learn best together. Focus on a small piece of the story. Ask a question of the group that you don't believe the text answers.

Before you hear their responses, you must offer your own answer to your question, then listen to others.

9. Quote something from the book (any character).

10. Wild Card: Group members makes up a question or a task for the student to complete.