Bringing Realistic Fiction to (Second) Life

In any good piece of fiction, well-developed characters are essential. We learn about characters through inferences:
- what they say/do
- how they are described by the author
- how other characters talk about them
- how others react to them

GOALS of this project:
- To examine your independent novel from the perspective of a main character
- To use inferences to understand characters’ perspectives

What hard-copies (paper) you are responsible for handing in:
1. Attached planning sheets #s 1–3

What you are responsible for in Second Life:
1. Creating an avatar that reflects what your character is like, using details either found in text or inferred by you
2. A discussion between your avatar and another avatar from a different novel
3. A note-card documenting the conversation (see last page for details)

The following is your time line for this project:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Type of Assignment</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Class Location</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, December 8</td>
<td>Homework</td>
<td>Planning Sheet #1 Due</td>
<td>Psi English – room 360</td>
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<td>Tuesday, December 9</td>
<td>Class work</td>
<td>Creation of Avatar</td>
<td>Library – Mac Computers</td>
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<td>Tuesday, December 16</td>
<td>Homework</td>
<td>Planning Sheet #2 Due</td>
<td>Psi English – room 360</td>
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| Wednesday, December 17 | Class work | * Work on User Profile  
   * Begin notes on Planning Sheet #3 during class | Library – Mac Computers |
Planning Sheet #1 – Creation of Avatar
Due Date: Monday, December 8

Name of novel:

Name of author:

Name of character:

1. According to the author and to your inferences, what does your character look like? (Hair/eye color, height, facial expressions, etc.) Write some ideas below:

2. What might your character wear?

3. Describe a part of the book that gives you definite clues about your character’s appearance. Include the page number.
4. Below, sketch an idea of your character’s appearance.

Planning Sheet #2 – Work on User Profile
Due Date: Monday, December 15

Profile:
Each avatar in Second Life has a profile, and each profile has several sections or “tabs.”
  • This profile can be found by clicking on any avatar with your mouse while pressing the apple key (or right clicking on a PC mouse).
  • When the wheel comes up, select “Profile” in order to see someone else’s profile, or in order to edit your own.

The profile for this project must include the following information:

1. 2nd Life Tab:
You have 500 words or less to summarize your character’s description in the area labeled “About.” Write as if you ARE the character. You must include the following information in this summary:
  • an explanation of who this character is in the story (in relation to the plot)
  • at least four adjectives that describe the character’s personality
  • a description of this character’s importance in the story
  • Please use first person pronouns (I, me, my, mine, we, our).

Write a rough draft of your “About” section here:

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______________________________________________________________________________
2. **Interests Tab:**
Under this tab, you have several options to choose from, and you must also write your own. Summarize the interests of this character in a few brief words, and type them into the space provided.

List some possible interests your character would have in the space below:

1. 
   _____________________________________________________________

2. 
   _____________________________________________________________

3. 
   _____________________________________________________________

3. **1st Life Tab:**
You have 250 words in this section to complete what needs to be done. Follow these directions:

   • Write a quote (with page number) from your novel that you think best summarizes this character's attitude, thoughts, or importance in the novel.
     ○ The quote may be a description from the author, something your character has said, or something another character has said about your character.
   
   • Include an explanation for why you chose the quote. Make challenging inferences.

1. Write a possible quote and page number in the space provided below:

   _____________________________________________________________

   _____________________________________________________________

   _____________________________________________________________
2. Why did you choose this quote? What does it tell the reader about the character?
Planning Sheet #3 – Conversation In–World
Start Date: Wednesday, December 17
Due Date: Monday, January 5

Directions:
Each avatar in Second Life has a profile, and each profile has several sections or “tabs.” You must read about, create questions for, and have a discussion with one avatar.

• See page seven of this packet to discover who your partner is!
• Click on that person’s avatar with your mouse while pressing the apple key (or right clicking on a PC mouse).
• When the wheel comes up, select “Profile” in order to see the profile.

1. 2nd Life Tab:
Read about this character. You must create conversation–style questions about this information. Remember your interviewing skills during the biography unit! You want to ask questions that invite story–telling, NOT questions that can be answered with one word.

Ask at least two questions about each of these things:

• who this character is in the story (in relation to the plot)

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• the four adjectives that describe the character’s personality

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• this character’s importance in the story

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2. **Interests Tab:**
Read about this character’s interests. You must create conversation-style questions about this information. Remember your interviewing skills during the biography unit! You want to ask questions that invite story-telling, NOT questions that can be answered with one word. (Hint: ask WHY questions here.)

List some possible questions you could ask about this character’s interests:

1. ____________________________________________________________________________

   ____________________________________________________________________________

2. ____________________________________________________________________________

   ____________________________________________________________________________

3. ____________________________________________________________________________

3. **1st Life Tab:**
Read about this character. You must create conversation-style questions about this information. Remember your interviewing skills during the biography unit! You want to ask questions that invite story-telling, NOT questions that can be answered with one word.

1. Read the quote and page number that summarizes the character’s attitude, thoughts, or importance.

2. Make an inference about what YOU think it tells you about the character. Write down a question for the character based on that inference.

   ____________________________________________________________________________

   ____________________________________________________________________________

   ____________________________________________________________________________

3. Read the provided inference for this quote. Do you agree? Why or why not? State your argument below.

   ____________________________________________________________________________

   ____________________________________________________________________________

   ____________________________________________________________________________

   ____________________________________________________________________________

   ____________________________________________________________________________
4. What remaining questions do you have for this character?

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Additional Information & Your Second Life Cheat Sheet

Use the following pairs for Planning Sheet #3 and conversations:

Student names have been removed for privacy.
**Problem Solving:**
1) Can't find the chat bar? Click on “Communication.”
2) Having trouble keeping up with the conversation? Click on “Communication.”
3) Are you seeing everything from a weird perspective? Try hitting “Esc.”

**How to submit a Note Card (Due January 5, in-world):**
1) After your conversation/interview is completed, click on “Inventory.”
2) Click “Create – New Note.”
3) Rename the note card from within your inventory
   NOT ON THE NOTECARD ITSELF:
   a. First Initial, Last Name: Period ___
4) Copy and paste the entire conversation into the open note card screen. (Ctrl C to copy, Ctrl V to paste)
5) Click “Save.”
6) Click on “Search” on the bottom of the screen. Type “Laurel Noel” in the search bar.
7) Once Laurel Noel’s profile is open, drag the new note card from your inventory into Laurel Noel’s skinny inventory slot. (It works like a mailbox, so I'll get it when I log on.)
Name of Character:

This character says...
What does this character say that tells us more about him/her?

This character thinks...
What does this character think about frequently? What are his/her worries or dreams?

This character feels...
What feelings does he/she tell us about? What feelings can we infer?

This character acts...
What does he/she act like?

Other characters say to this character/treat this character...
How do the other characters behave towards him/her? What do they do for him/her or to him/her?

This character looks...

This character lives...
What is his/her life like?

Name ___________________________________________   Period ________________
Novel: ____________________________________                       Characterization Sheet