

Major Works Data Sheet (MWDS):
Expectations & Grading Rubric

The *Major Works Data Sheet*, or *MWDS*, is a way to keep a detailed and comprehensive record of the key stylistic and literary components of long form fiction. We will complete these for every text that we read over the course of this year; these become an essential tool for AP Exam studying and review in the Spring Semester. The template for this can be downloaded from my website.

Outlined below are my general expectations and instructions for each section of the MWDS:

- A. **Biographical Info/Historical Info/Genre Info:** Student has representative information from in-class discussions/handouts and from personal research. Information is accurate and clearly noted for easy reference.
- B. **Plot Summary:** Student has clearly and fully represented the key points of the plot. Specifications of characters, places, relationships, and details are explored for each section of the novel. Structure is illuminated for the text, as major parts are outlined. Themes and purposes are alluded to in the summary.
- C. **Characterization:** Major and minor characters are described using direct and specific references from the text. Student discusses each character's role or importance in the text (more literal) as well as the metaphorical role of each character. Student also explores how the author develops the characters, their motivations, their actions and roles in the novel as they affect others, and create conflicts (internal/external). "Roles" and "Significance" should move beyond the text to relate to themes and to connect to purposes. This list should be comprised of as many characters as are noted within the text; this will vary with each text.
- A. **Setting and Significance:** Student names and describes **each setting, both place and time** (not just the country or place where it takes place). Student should acknowledge and support symbolic meanings, structural importance, and thematic connections.
- B. **Symbols, Motifs, Allusions, and Images:** A full and developed list of symbols and allusions, what each represents, the role of each, the significance of each, and the purposes for each is explored in these blocks.
- C. **Opening and Concluding Scenes:** Student explores the connotative diction, symbols, imagery, characterization, syntactical nuances, and thematic connections found in both the opening and closing scenes of the novel. The student will see the progression of the work from each block and reference the "growth" found within the novel, the purpose for the author's choices, and the structure of the text as a whole.
- D. **Themes:** Student will specifically refer to **at least three specific** themes (not motifs). Themes should be written in complete sentences and should be specific; they should describe the author's perspective on a topic or big idea. Evidence of each theme should be constructed from a variety of literary elements and specific, original details found within the novel. An explanation how each theme manifests in the text is necessary to earn full credit for this section.
- E. **Possible Discussion Questions:** Student includes **at least three higher-order questions**. Questions that only deal with the literal aspects of the text are unacceptable, as they should have been asked during the class discussions while reading the text.
- F. **Description of the Author's Style / Example:** Specific aspects of the author's style (literary devices and stylistic techniques) are listed and noted with **at least** one example. A clear understanding of the uniqueness of the writing is represented in this section.

****PLEASE NOTE:**

If any component of the MWDS is plagiarized (copied from others, derived largely from Spark Notes, Cliff's Notes, or similar sources, or which lack attribution of sources), the entire assignment will receive an automatic "F" grade, as per our CPDA Magnet plagiarism policy.

I will use the following rubric to grade the Major Works Data Sheet:

	Exemplary (✓+)	Proficient (✓)	Developing (✓-)
Thoroughness	Overall, MWDS address ALL components of each section completely, thoroughly, and thoughtfully.	MWDS addresses ALL components of each section, but may not be done with sufficient detail to effectively demonstrate understanding of the text.	MWDS may be missing essential components in one or more sections. Overall, answers are brief and insufficient.
Content Clarity & Accuracy	MWDS reflects a deep and nuanced understanding of the text.	MWDS reflects an accurate understanding of the text.	MWDS reflects a confused, inaccurate, or incomplete understanding of the text.
Conventions	Adheres to all elements of proper English grammar, spelling, and MLA conventions.	Adheres to elements of proper English grammar, spelling, and MLA conventions with only a few errors.	Does not adhere to elements of proper English grammar, spelling, and/or MLA conventions. There may be several consistent errors, or frequent errors such that it impedes understanding.