

## Characterization - Cause and Effect

On a separate sheet of paper, explain how the following minor characters affect Zach's thoughts and actions.

Do they:  
make him think?  
do something he wouldn't normally do?  
make him angry?  
create problems?  
scare him?  
encourage him?  
etc.?

Take notes about each character as you read the story.

Neil Osborne affects Zach...

Agent Pelton affects Zach...

Sam Sebesta affects Zach...

Alonzo Aznar affects Zach...

Peter Short affects Zach...

Catalin Cristobal affects Zach...

## Characterization – Theme

On a separate sheet of paper, describe in detail, which characters match with which themes.

**Honesty Example** Zach’s father deceives the family about his part in the drug trafficking business. He also lied to himself that he wasn’t hurting anyone. This book shows how devastated Zach and his family were because of his dad’s lies; Zach and his family are paying a high price. They have to change everything about themselves and keep their own secrets for believing in their father and husband. Also, Neil Osborne is paying a high price because he is not allowed to see his family and will probably go to prison or be killed by the criminals. The secrets that Zach has to keep from Catalin are very hard for him as well. He knows the importance of honesty and it hurts him to keep the truth from her.

**Take notes here as you read the story**

Fear:

Perceptions:

Relationships:

Abandonment:

Change:

Identity:

Family:

Guilt:

Loyalty:

## Characterization - Biography

On a separate sheet of paper, write a one – two page biography of whom Jack was and who Zach is and who Mack may become.

**Write about who he is and the changes has he gone through both externally and internally?**

There should be, at least, five to six paragraphs:

Paragraph #1 - Who Jack was: 6-10 sentences

Paragraph #2-#5 – Who Zach is: three to four 6-8 sentence paragraphs. Think of who his is on the outside, home, school, work, with friends, with enemies, etc.

Paragraph #6 – Who Mack will become: 6-8 sentence prediction

HINTS:

1. Talk about the person not the plot.

Use adjectives such as, Zach is **sarcastic** because when he is talking with his mom about the “museum event” he is kind of a smart-mouth about being late. AND

Zach is **thoughtful** because he keeps a journal and writes down all his thoughts.

OR

Use nouns that describe such as, Zach is a **daredevil** because he jumps out the window during his cape-crusader days. AND

Zach is a **listener** because he loves to hear Sam’s and Catalin’s stories.

2. You should see Jack/Zach/Mack’s name and the pronoun “he” all through your paper.

3. Only share events in the context of “who Zach is”.

After Jack broke his legs, he had to spend time learning to walk again so his Dad built a gym for him and **this helped Jack get close to his Dad**. Also, he spent a great deal of time reading and **he now loves to read**. **This information “in bold” is what is important in the biography.**

Zach **is not really very athletic but he works very hard** cleaning out Sam’s building and to impress Catalin; **they are close friends**.

Also here is a word bank of important words and phrases to consider and possibly use in your writing:

<u>Word Bank</u>		
broken legs	caring	Witness Protection
journal	Commander IF	Elko
books	strong-willed	pilot
Basque	tall	fight
Nevada	frustrated	lies
work-sawdust	loyal	blue eyes
friendships	mountains	Jack-in-the-box
normal	panic	daredevil
thoughtful	listener	honest
tall	non-athletic	risk-taker

**Plot Points**

On a separate piece of paper, summarize the novel by sectioning the events into the different sections of plot. However, do not label each section just indent for your new paragraph. When you are finished you will have an excellent book summary.

**Use the space provided under each section to take notes.**

Exposition: 4- 5 sentences

The beginning which explains the background of the story.

Rising Action: 10-12 sentences

The central part of the story during which various problems arise.

This section is usually the majority of the novel.

Climax: 3-4 sentences

The highest point in the action. Usually the main character begins to change here or is presented with the opportunity to change.

Falling Action:

The part of the story which follows the climax or turning point: it contains the action or dialogue necessary to LEAD the story to a resolution or ending.

Resolution:

The part where the problems are solved – usually the satisfying end.

## **Conflict**

Below, identify how each of the following conflicts are found in the novel. Please use details from the story.

**Man vs. Man:** One character in a story has a problem with one or more of the other characters.

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**Man vs. Society:** A character has a conflict with society: school, law, gang, etc.

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**Man vs. Himself:** A character struggles with himself and has trouble deciding what to do.

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## **Universal and Vicarious Themes**

List any of the universal and vicarious themes on the T chart using bullets.

<b>Universal Theme</b>	<b>Vicarious Theme</b>
Experiences I have that are similar to the events in the novel.	Events in the novel that I have not had and probably will never have.
Example: - Zach not wanting to move.	Example: - Zach going into the Witness Protection.

## **Socratic Discussion Questions**

On a separate sheet of paper, answer all questions with complete sentences and thoughts.

1. Why was Elko, Nevada not acceptable to Zach?
2. What does Zach's mom do in Elko?
3. Who are the Basque?
4. Why are students sent to the custodian instead of the principal when they fight?
5. Do Agent Pelton and the DEA keep the family safe?
6. Why is keeping a journal so important to Zach **and** what problems does it cause?
7. Could Zach have prevented anyone knowing who he was?
8. Is Neil Osborne a good father?
9. Why was it harder for Zach to change than his mother and sister?
10. Was Jack happier as Zach or Jack?
11. How could Peter and his parents have a better relationship?
12. Why will Cat always keep Commander IF?
13. What are **three** changes Zach had trouble with when being placed in the Witness Protection Program?
14. What different situations, in the future might be difficult for Zach and his family in the Witness Protection Program?
15. What do you think would be the hardest part of being in the Witness Protection Program? the best part or good part?

### **Other Possible Socratic Discussion Questions???**

Write, at least, three more questions that could be used in a Socratic Discussion.