

Name: _____ Date: _____

Novel Study ~ MRS. FRISBY AND THE RATS OF NIMH

***Reader Responses and Vocabulary:
Chapters 1 – 7***

There are five parts to be completed:

- *As You Read Chapters 1 - 2*
- *After You Read Chapters 1 - 2*
- *After You Read Chapters 3 - 5*
- *As You Read Chapters 6 – 7*
- *Vocabulary*

Be sure to complete each activity as intended, during or after reading the chapters.

Marks:

AS YOU READ – CHAPTERS 1 & 2 /4

AFTER YOU READ – CHAPTERS 1 & 2 /4

AFTER YOU READ – CHAPTERS 3 - 5 /4

AFTER YOU READ – CHAPTERS 6 & 7 /4

VOCABULARY /4

Total: /20

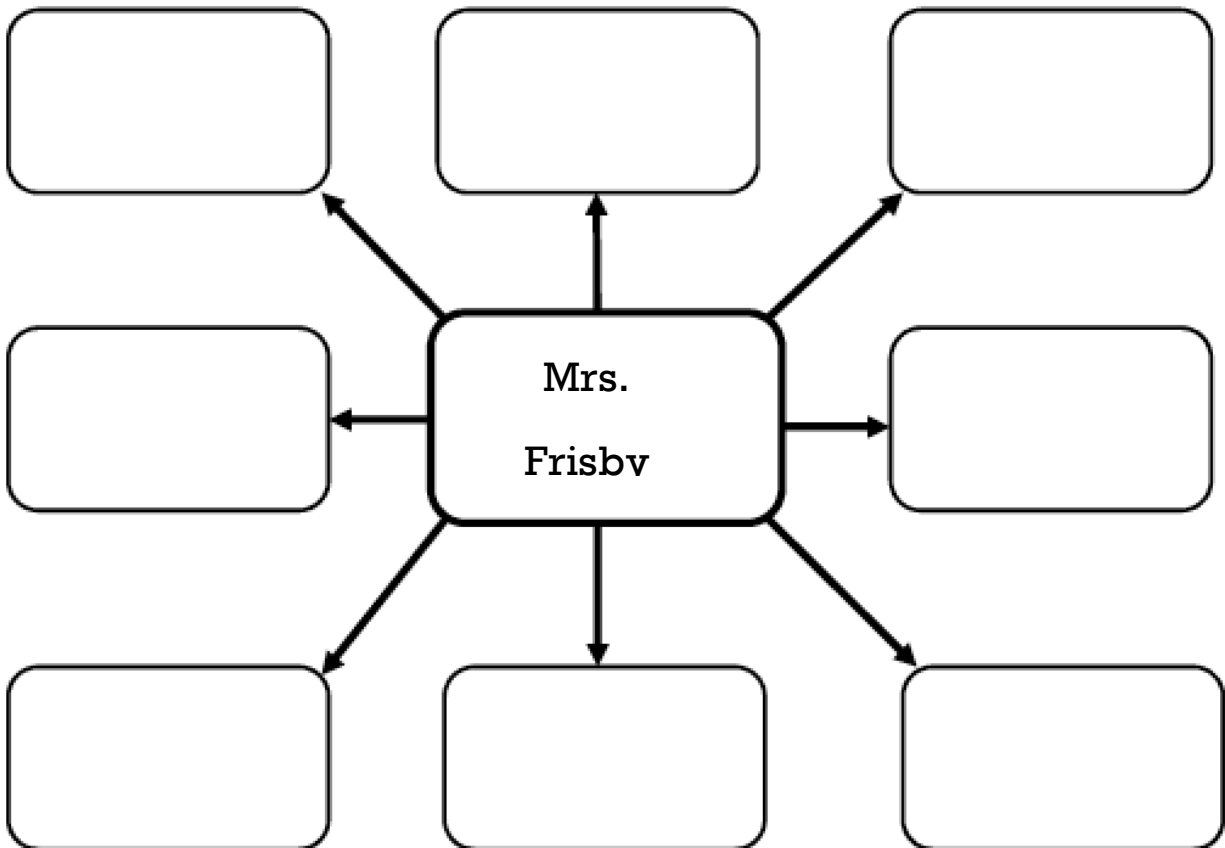
AS YOU READ CHAPTERS 1 – 2 – ACTIVE READING:

What kind of person is Mrs. Frisby? You can learn about Mrs. Frisby's personality and character by:

- What she says
- What she does
- What she thinks
- What other characters say about her

As you read chapters 1 – 2, complete the web diagram to list what you learn about Mrs. Frisby's personality and character in this section of the novel. You can add more circles or list more information under the web, if needed.

(Marks: 4-point scale – 4 = Wow! Very detailed, evidence of close reading. 3 = fully meets expectations, 2 = minimally meets expectations, 0-1 not meeting expectations)



2. PLOT - An exciting story relies on a crisis to make things more interesting for the reader. What crisis is described in the first chapter?

3. AUTHOR'S USE OF LANGUAGE –

Foreshadowing is a literary device where the author provides a hint as to what happen later in the story.

A) Mr. Ages tells Mrs. Frisby that the medicine will help Timothy recover, what stern warning does he also offer? For how long will this be in effect?

B) How might the warning of Mr. Ages be an example of foreshadowing?

4. VOCABULARY:

Choose a word from the list to complete each sentence.

scarce scurry emerge authoritatively
hypochondriac delirious relentless

1. Because Timothy complained about his health all the time, people sometime thought he was a _____.
2. "Moving day is in two weeks," Martin declared _____.
3. No one expected him to _____ uninjured after his spider bite.
4. Mrs. Frisby was on the lookout for stumps, rocks, and other hiding places to _____ under should she meet an unfriendly animal.
5. His fever was so high that Timothy was not making any sense; he had become _____.
6. The cat stalked the grounds around the barn _____, so was a big threat to the rodents who lived nearby.

/4

*****Fill your plot flowchart with 2 – 5 sentences summarizing the main events of chapters one and two. Then, you will be ready to begin the next three chapters.*****

READER RESPONSES – AFTER YOU READ

CHAPTERS 3 - 5:

An overall mark will be assigned for these responses. (Marks: 4-point scale - 4 = Wow! Exceeds expectations. Very detailed and insightful. Well proofread/edited. Accurate. 3 = Good work! Fully meets expectations, mostly accurate, evidence of proofreading/editing, 2 = Minimally meets expectations, some parts may need editing/proofreading or be vague/hard to understand/not quite accurate, 0-1 Not meeting expectations)

1. PLOT –

A) What happens in the garden in the spring?

B) How does this threaten the survival of the mice?

2. AUTHOR’S USE OF LANGUAGE -Mr. Frisby used to say, All doors are hard to unlock until you have the key. If Mr. Frisby wasn’t actually speaking about a literal door, what do you think he meant?

3. PERSONAL RESPONSE - (Response options: Writing / Audio or Video Recording / Drawing)

Every good story usually needs an interesting **antagonist** ("bad guy"). In *Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH*, it is the cat. Here is how Robert C. O'Brien brilliantly describes the cat:

The cat: He was called Dragon. Farmer Fitzgibbon's wife had given him the name as a joke when he was a small kitten pretending to be fierce. But when he grew up, the name turned out to be an apt one. He was enormous, with a huge, broad head and a large mouth full of curving fangs, needle sharp. He had seven claws on each foot and a thick, furry tail, which lashed angrily from side to side. In colour, he was orange and white, with glaring yellow eyes; and when he leaped to kill, he gave a high, strangled scream that froze his victims where they stood.

Choose one:

A) Draw and colour the cat, Dragon. Be sure to include the exaggerated details. You can complete this on a separate paper and add it after this page.

B) Think about some other books you have read which have featured an antagonist that you have really disliked. What characteristics do you think makes for an effective antagonist? (looks, personality, actions) Give examples and explain your thinking.

C) Do you have a pet? Imagine an evil, predatory version of your pet. How would Robert C. O'Brien possibly describe him? Pretend you are an author and write this description.

Written Response for B or C:

/4

*****Fill your plot flowchart with 2 – 5 sentences summarizing the main events of chapters three to five. Then, you will be ready to begin the next two chapters.*****

READER RESPONSES – AFTER YOU READ

CHAPTERS 6 - 7:

An overall mark will be assigned for these responses. (Marks: 4-point scale – 4 = Wow! Exceeds expectations. Very detailed and insightful. Well proofread/edited. Accurate. 3 = Good work! Fully meets expectations, mostly accurate, evidence of proofreading/editing, 2 = Minimally meets expectations, some parts may need editing/proofreading or be vague/hard to understand/not quite accurate, 0-1 Not meeting expectations)

1. RECALL -

A) Complete the following exercise filling in the correct words from the Word Box.

corn	updraft	loud	Martin	back	sleeps	noises
Cynthia	beech	flying	dusk	foil	Teresa	

Mrs. Frisby had originally set out to get some _____ for supper. When Mrs. Frisby saw Jeremy, he was looking at a shiny piece of _____. Jeremy thought that an old owl, living in a _____ tree in the forest might be able to help Mrs. Frisby with her problem. Jeremy said he would carry Mrs. Frisby there on his _____. During the daytime the owl _____ and at night he's out _____. The best time to see him is at _____. When Jeremy arrived to get Mrs. Frisby, _____, _____, and _____ were with her. Jeremy stopped beating his wings when they flew over the woods as he was being carried by an _____. When they reached the owl's house, Jeremy and Mrs. Frisby walked very quietly as the owl doesn't like _____.

B) Why was Mrs. Frisby afraid to go into the owl's home?

2. PERSONAL RESPONSE - (Response options: Writing / Audio or Video)

A) This novel won a "Newberry Award" which means it is considered a "most distinguished contribution to American literature for children". Imagine you got to name and give three awards out to characters from the novel. What three awards would you invent and to whom would each award be given?

B) Do you think Mrs. Frisby should have gone to see the owl? Why or why not?

Written:

3. VOCABULARY -

In each of the following sets of words, underline the one word that does not belong. Then, write a sentence explaining why it does not fit.

An overall mark will be assigned for these responses. (Marks: 4-point scale – 4 = Wow! Exceeds expectations. Very detailed and insightful. Well proofread/edited. Accurate. 3 = Good work! Fully meets expectations, mostly accurate, evidence of proofreading/editing, 2 = Minimally meets expectations, some parts may need editing/proofreading or be vague/hard to understand/not quite accurate, 0-1 Not meeting expectations)

1. convenient deliberate appropriate agreeable

2. existence being entity inanimate

3. effortless laborious hard difficult

4. respite pause imitation suspension

5. callous sympathetic affectionate compassionate

6. deliberate calculated intentional unwitting

/4

*****Fill your plot flowchart with 2 – 5 sentences summarizing the main events of chapters six and seven. Then, you will be ready to begin the next two chapters.*****