

Pre-reading Activity ANTICIPATION GUIDE FOR MONSTER

Directions: Before you begin reading *Monster* by Walter Dean Myers, fill out this anticipation guide. These questions are designed to get you thinking about some of the themes, events, and ideas that are dealt with in the novel. After reading each statement, write whether you think that statement is true or false. Then write a sentence explaining why you believe this way.

1. Racism and prejudice are not problems today in America. _____

Explanation:

2. Every decision we make has a consequence. _____

Explanation:

3. When on trial, a person is always considered guilty until proven innocent. _____

Explanation:

4. Monsters are not real. They are imaginary creatures. _____

Explanation:

5. Peer pressure is always a negative or bad thing. _____

Explanation:

6. People are sometimes discriminated against because of their age. _____

Explanation:

7. Only guilty people go to jail. _____

Explanation:

8. Novels can only be told in narrative form. _____

Explanation:

9. People who commit crimes come from bad neighborhoods and bad families or they have some sort of mental illness. _____

Explanation:

10. Writing in a journal is a good way to express feelings. _____

Explanation:

Pre-reading Activity ANTICIPATION GUIDE FOR MONSTER (TEACHER KEY)

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1. Racism and prejudice are not problems today in America. *False*

Explanation: *Racism and prejudice are still problems today, though perhaps less apparent than in the past.*

2. Every decision we make has a consequence. *True*

Explanation: There is a consequence (sometimes obvious, sometimes not so obvious) to every decision we make.

3. When on trial, a person is always considered guilty until proven innocent. *False*

Explanation: *It is just the opposite in the American judicial system. A person is supposed to be considered innocent until proven guilty.*

4. Monsters are not real. They are imaginary creatures. *False*

Explanation: *Many real life people have been called monsters—Hitler, mass murderers, etc. In the novel, Steve Harmon is called a monster. Possible class discussion: What makes a real life person a monster?*

5. Peer pressure is always a negative or bad thing. *False*

Explanation: *Friends and peers can influence a person to make good decisions or bad decisions.*

6. People are sometimes discriminated against because of their age. *True*

Explanation: *Often times young people are not considered to be valuable or have good judgment because of their youth. This is a problem Steve Harmon faces in the novel because he is only sixteen.*

7. Only guilty people go to jail. *False*

Explanation: *Not everyone who goes to jail is guilty. Some people are falsely accused. Others are in jail because they are awaiting trial and have not yet been found guilty.*

8. Novels can only be told in narrative form. *False*

Explanation: *While most novels are told in narrative form, they can also be told in other ways. These ways include journal entries, poems, and even film scripts. *Monster*, of course, is told in journal entries and script form.*

9. People who commit crimes come from bad neighborhoods and bad families or they have some sort of mental illness. *False*

Explanation: *Not always. People from all backgrounds commit crimes. Steve Harmon does live in the ghetto of Harlem. He also has a loving mother and father. Steve's choice of friends and personal decisions get him into trouble.*

10. Writing in a journal is a good way to express feelings. *True*

Explanation: *Many studies have shown that it is important for a person to “vent” or “talk about” feelings. One way to do so is by writing a journal.*

PRE-READING ACTIVITY

Discussion question: What makes a person a monster?

(Have students write about this individually then share their answers in small groups. Then have a whole class discussion in which students post their responses on a class chart or poster).

Discussion Question #2: Who are some real life monsters? (Follow same procedures as above).

Prediction Question #3: The protagonist of the novel, Steve Harmon, is referred to as a monster by another character. Why might this be so? (Prediction).