

Name: _____

Student Journal

Monster

by Walter Dean Myers

Reading Schedule

Group members: _____

<i>Monster</i>	Student Journal	Due Date	Discussion Date
Introduction	Pages 2-4		
Pages 11-52	Pages 5-6		
Pages 53-98	Pages 7-8		
Pages 99-149	Pages 9-10		
Pages 150-209	Pages 11-12		
The Exchange			
Assessment			

THE EXCHANGE

Is everyone
considered
innocent until
proven guilty?

Introduction

Read the Introduction on pages 7–9 in *Monster*. The Introduction will help you understand key concepts in the book. Knowing them will help you discuss and write about the book.

The Introduction includes information about

- the research the author did in order to write *Monster*
- the screenplay format of the book
- how the judicial system works

After you read the Introduction, answer these questions to check your understanding.

1. Why did Walter Dean Myers write *Monster* in a screenplay format?

2. What is the guiding principle of the United States legal system?

3. How does a trial work?

Introduction: Key Concepts

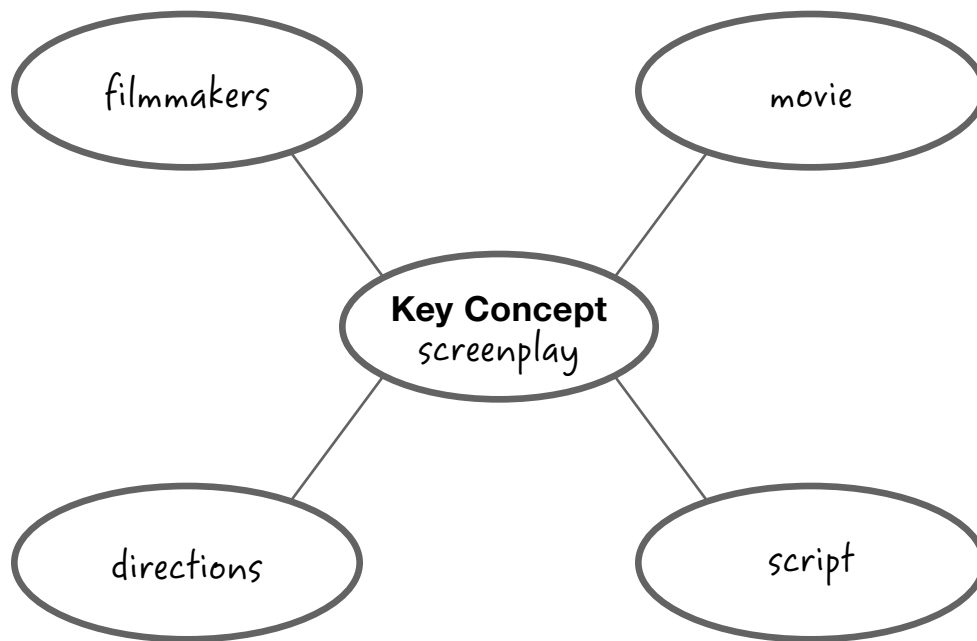
Word Web

Study the **Word Web** for *screenplay*. What words does *screenplay* make you think of? Write a sentence using the word *screenplay*.

Key Concepts

defense
judicial
legal
prosecutor
screenplay

Word Web



On a separate sheet of paper, create a similar **Word Web** for each of the Key Concept words. Then write a sentence for each one.

Respond to Pages 11-52

1. **Personal Response** O'Brien tells Steve that he has to believe in himself if he is going to convince a jury of his innocence. Do you agree that people have to believe in themselves in order for others to believe in them?

2. **Conclusions** Why do the prosecutors want Sal Zinzi and Wendell Bolden to testify? Use the word *prosecutor* in your response.

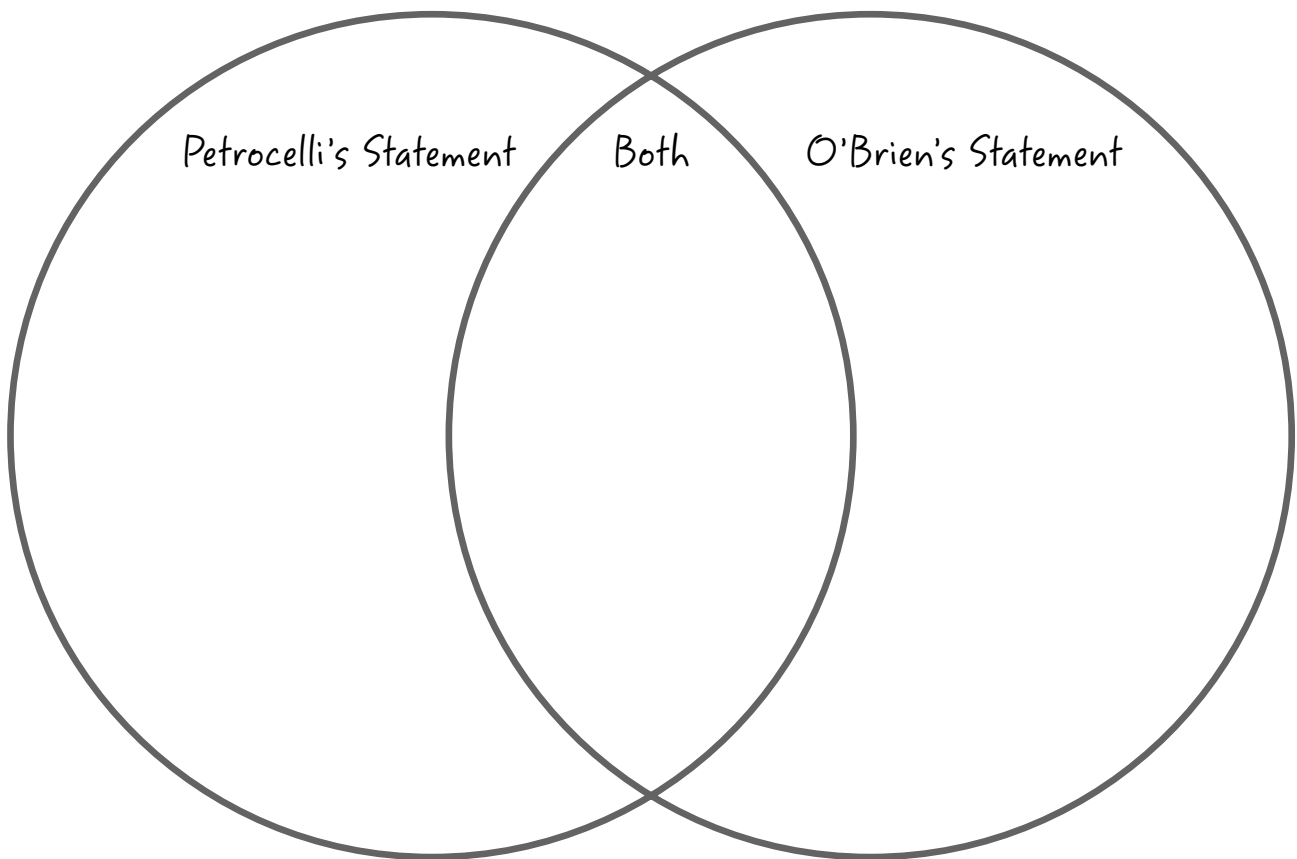
3. **Analogy** How does Steve draw the analogy between the viewers of a film and the jury of a court trial?

4. **Generate Questions** Write a question about this section for someone else reading this book. Exchange questions with them. Do you agree with their answer?

Respond to Pages 11-52, continued

5. Character's Point of View The trial begins by the lawyers giving their opening statements. Think about the main ideas of each statement. List the differences and similarities between the opening statements.

Venn Diagram



If you were Steve, how would you feel about the opening statements?
Why?

Respond to Pages 53–98

1. **Personal Response** Steve does not feel as if anyone knows who he really is as a person. Have you ever felt misunderstood?

2. **Mood** What is the mood in prison like? How does it make Steve feel about what is going to happen to him? How is Steve depending on the judicial system? Use the word *judicial* in your response.

3. **Text Features** What do the Close Ups (CU) and other screenplay directions reveal about how Mr. Harmon feels about Steve’s situation?

4. **Generate Questions** Write a question about this section for someone else reading this book. Exchange questions with them. Do you agree with their answer?

Respond to Pages 53–98, continued

5. **Cause and Effect** On pages 53–98 we see what happens when the trial continues. List the events of the trial and how Steve reacts to these events in his journal.

T Chart

<i>Events of the Trial</i>	<i>Steve's Reaction</i>

How does being able to read Steve's journal entries affect the way the reader thinks about the trial?

Respond to Pages 99–149

1. Personal Response Steve’s mother is the only person who believes he is innocent. Have you ever been in a situation where there was only one person who believed in you? How did that person make things better for you?

2. Dialogue How do the inmates in prison talk to each other about their cases and the legal system? What does this suggest to you about the type of person Steve might turn into if he is found guilty? Use the word *legal* in your response.

3. Character’s Point of View How does Steve feel after his family visits him in prison and his brother is not allowed inside?

4. Generate Questions Write a question about this section for someone else reading this book. Exchange questions with them. Do you agree with their answer?

Respond to Pages 99–149, *continued*

5. Conclusions On pages 99–149, we get a better idea of what happened on the day of the robbery. List what Steve, King, and Bobo reveal about the robbery and what this shows about Steve’s involvement.

Character Description Chart

Character	What the Character Does	What This Shows About Steve’s Involvement
Steve		
King		
Bobo		

From what the characters reveal, what can you conclude about Steve’s involvement in the robbery?

Respond to Pages 150–209

1. Personal Response Steve experiments with making films to try to learn more about himself and who he is. What is something you enjoy doing? Why?

2. Judgments Even though we know that Steve was in the drugstore during the crime, the author never states whether he is guilty or not. Do you think Steve is guilty of a crime? Use the word *defense* in your response.

3. Cause and Effect How has Steve’s life changed because of his experience in prison and the trial?

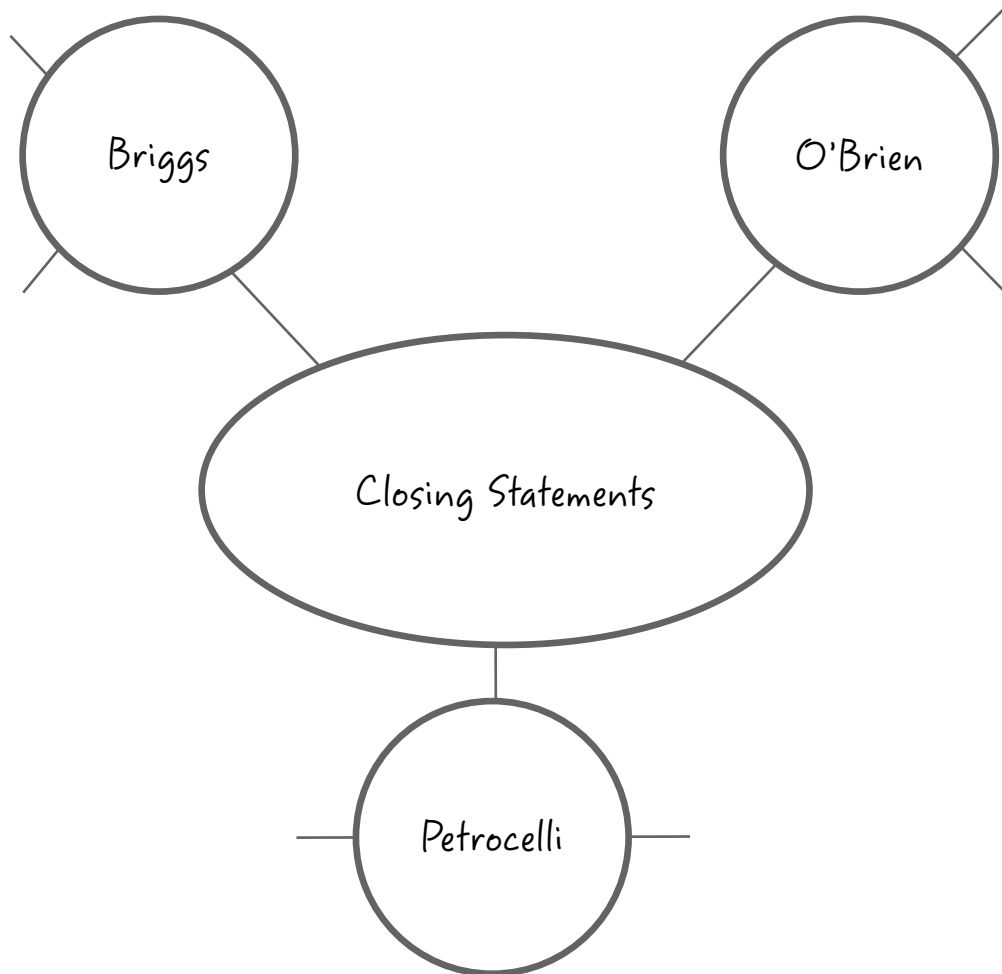
What If?

4. Connect Look at your notes on **Student Journal, page 2**. Think about what would happen if you were not considered innocent until proven guilty. Compare this to *Monster*. Was Steve judged unfairly?

Respond to Pages 150–209, continued

5. **Perspectives** On pages 150–209, the lawyers give their closing statements. Write 2 important points that Petrocelli, Briggs, and O'Brien make. Use the **Cluster** to answer the question.

Cluster



If you were a member of the jury, would you find Steve innocent or guilty based on the closing statements? Why?
