Name:

Before, During, After Thinking Guide

**Monster by Walter Dean Myers**

Before reading Walter Dean Myers’ novel *Monster,* I would like you to consider how you feel about some of the topics that will be brought up throughout the novel. Place a **plus sign (+)** on the line if you *AGREE* with the statement and a **minus sign (-)** if you *disagree*. Briefly explain your opinion in the explanation box.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Statement** | **Agree (+)**  **Disagree (-)** | **Explanation** |
| **1. Life is ten percent how you make it and 90% how you take it.** |  |  |
| **2. The majority of people charged with a crime really are guilty.** |  |  |
| **3. In order to be a healthy person, one must confront fears instead of hiding from them.** |  |  |
| **4. The friends we choose and the people we hang out with are an accurate reflection of us.** |  |  |
| 1. **Lying about something wrong you did is only trying to save yourself from hurt/pain.** |  |  |
| **6. If a teenager is charged with a serious crime, she or he should be tried as an adult.** |  |  |
| **7. No matter what happens you should take responsibility for your actions.** |  |  |
| **8. What is right and wrong are always clearly defined and obvious.** |  |  |
| **9. Peer pressure influences kids more than parents and teachers do** |  |  |

**Question**: Of the 9 statements explain which one you feel is the most important!

***Before:***

1- Look at the front and back cover of the book. Write down words in the boxes that relate to the covers of the book. (Descriptive Language)

2- Read the back blurb about the story. In the boxes labeled “F” put a fact that you know after reading the page. In the boxes labeled “Q” write a question you still have about the fact.

**F**

*Q*

*Q*

**F**

*Q*

**F**

3a- Define the following terms.

1. Recognize
2. Dispensary
3. Prosecutor
4. Trail
5. Grainy

3b- Use the vocabulary words in the word bank to make predictions about the book we are reading. You can use the words more than once to make your predictions. Think about how you think the author of the book will use the words in the story. List the words that you think will go with each category of the story structure and then use those words to answer the questions about structure.

Recognize Trial

Dispensary Grainy

Prosecutor

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Setting** | How will the author describe the setting? |
| **Characters** | What predictions can you make about the characters? |
| **Plot** | What will happen in the story? (minimum 2 events) |

***During:***

4- When is the best time to cry? (page 1)

5- What is the setting of the story?

1. A jail cell
2. School
3. A neighborhood

6- What doesn’t the narrator recognize? (page 1)

7- What do we learn about the narrator? (pages 1-2)

8- What does he compare life in a prison to?

1. A book
2. A movie
3. A jungle

Explain how you know:

9- Why did the narrator tile the film “Monster?” (page 5)

***After:***

10- The book begins with text that looks like someone’s hand printing, and the words describe crying at night before revealing that the writer is in jail. Why would Myers, the author, open the book in such an unusual way? How does this set the tone for the novel? Explain your answer in detail.

11- In the boxes below, give examples of each term. It can be a personal experience, or something you heard about in the news, or a made up experience.

**Stereotype**:

**Racism**:

**Prejudice**: