**Study Guide: *MONSTER* by Walter Dean Myers**

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ per \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Part One: Monday, July 6th, pp. 1-44, DUE \_\_\_\_10/8/12\_\_\_\_\_**

**Vocabulary: Look up words on your own before reading each section.**

1. impede (23)
2. articulate (28)
3. redress (26):

4. grandiose (27):

5. tentative (42):

**Literary Terms: Define.**

1. Point-of-View (POV) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
   1. First\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
   2. Second\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
   3. Third\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
   4. What point-of-view is the novel written in? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
   5. Whose POV is it?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. Metaphor\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* What major metaphor does Steve construct? Why?

1. Allusion \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* What does Steve allude to? Why might have he done this?

1. Flashback\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* Why are flashbacks used in the novel thus far?

1. Oxymoron:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. What is a screenplay?

**Important Quotations: Who said it and why is it important?**

1. “It is about being alone when you are not really alone and about being scared all the time.” (p. \_\_\_\_\_)

2.”It probably depends on what you mean by ‘win.’” (p. \_\_\_\_)

**Questions (Note: Answer all questions in this study packet with COMPLETE sentences.)**

1. How does this book appear to be different from any other books you have read? State two specific differences. What do you think Walter Dean Myers was trying to accomplish by writing his novel in these different ways?
2. Why does the narrator choose to present the events that happen to him in a script form?
3. Who is O’Brien? What are her suggestions? What does she say is her job? How does she perceive Steve’s situation?
4. What does the guard mean when he says Steve’s case is a “motion case”? What does this say about truth and justice in the American Jury System?
5. What purpose is the flashback to Steve’s Film Class? What does Sawicki say to Steve?
6. Why are the boys on trial according to the opening statement by the prosecutor, Petrocelli?
7. What does O’Brien suggest to the jury before the trial in her opening statement?
8. How did Briggs bring question to Jose’s testimony?
9. What was Zinzi’s testimony? Why can’t the jury trust his testimony?
10. What is significant about the flashback Steve enters in the script about the rock throwing? What does this show about the present Steve?

**Part Two: Tuesday, July 7th, pp. 45-88, DUE \_\_\_\_10/15/12\_\_\_\_\_**

**Vocabulary**

1. drawl (50)
2. pertinent (55)
3. silhouetted (57)
4. affidavit (66)
5. grimaces (73)

**Literary Terms: Define.**

1. Irony: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
   1. situational
   2. dramatic
   3. verbal
   4. What is ironic about Bolden’s statement, “I just wanted to do the right thing. You know, like a good citizen.” (p. \_\_\_\_\_\_)
   5. What is ironic about Steve’s current situation?

**FIND TWO Important Quotations: Who said it and why is it important? Include page #s.**

**1.**

**2.**

**Questions over pp. 45-88.**

1. List the crimes Bolden has committed. Explain what kind of guy he appears to be. Explain the impact of his testimony. What do you think of Bolden as a witness?
2. What is they purpose of the flashback on page 49-51 and 58?
3. How does Brigg’s refute Bolden’s testimony of Bobo Evans telling him he robbed a store?

1. What is life like in prison for Steve? How is he questioning his identity?
2. How did Detective Karyl manipulate Steve during the investigation of the crime? How is his testimony questioned during the trial?
3. Discuss why O’Brien says the trial could be going better and what she believes they must do.
4. What did the detective not check that he should have checked at the crime scene?
5. What did Osvaldo testify to the court?
6. Contrast Steve’s flashback of Osvaldo Cruz with Cruz’s appearance in court. Discuss the impact of Cruz’s testimony
7. Look at the picture on pg. 56. How does it make you feel by simply looking at it? Why do you think the author included it?

**Part Three: Thursday, July 9th, pp. 89-136, DUE \_\_\_\_\_\_\_10/22/12\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Vocabulary**

* 1. apprehended
  2. ruffled
  3. cacophony
  4. dismay
  5. glowers

**Literary Terms**

1. Define UNIVERSALITY. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. In what way are the emotions of Steve’s parents universal? How do Steve’s problem’s affect them?

3. Define ANALOGY. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

4. Explain the following analogy: the courtroom vs. a garbage disposal or sewer (p. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_) Who makes this analogy?

1. How does the author’s use of slang impacts the tone of the novel? Who uses slang?
2. What do the following slang phrases mean:

--holding pen (94)

-- let him walk(95)

--cutting a deal(96)

--up to your neck (103)

--B&E

**Important Quotation (Who said it and why is it important)**

**1.** “It was me, I thought as I tried not to throw up, that had wanted to be tough like them.” (p. \_\_\_\_\_\_)

**Questions**

1. Skim over Steve’s journal entry at the beginning of this section. What do we learn about Ms. O’Brien?
2. What is the significance of adding the banter (look it up if you don’t know the word) and discussion of the guards to the story?
3. How does the juror described on the top of page 99 react to Steve? Why? How does O’Brien respond to Steve’s crying?
4. Why does it not make sense that Osvalso would “be afraid” of Bobo as he states on page 101?
5. What is the name of the gang Osvaldo belongs to? What does it mean?
6. How did Briggs refute Osvaldo’s testimony? How did O’Brien refute the testimony?
7. Describe Mr. Harmon’s dreams for his son? Is he supportive of Steve? Explain.
8. What is ironic about Mrs. Harmon watching the newscast of the drugstore burglary?
9. What are the differences between Steve and James King in reactions to Moody’s testimony of Nesbitt’s death? How did Nesbitt actually die?
10. Examine Petrocelli’s “cheap trick” and whether or not you think this is a convincing technique.
11. Explain whether or not you think Steve is guilty. Note his reference to walking in a drugstore and looking around (115), his reaction when he overhears the women talking about the crime (117-120), his shock when he hears the report on TV (120-121), and his stupor after hearing of Bobo’s arrest (123).
12. Examine the reaction of his mother and his brother when Steve is arrested. How would members of your family react in a similar situation? Explain.

**Part Four: Saturday, July 11th, pp. 137-200: DUE \_\_\_\_\_10/29/12\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Vocabulary**

1. traversed (135)
2. mosaic (151)
3. diminutive (161)
4. prejudicial (173)

**Literary Terms**

1. Mood\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
   1. What does the overall mood of this story seem to be (one word)?

b. What specific elements help to portray the overall mood?

**Important Quotations (Who said it and why is it important)**

1. “I can see me at that moment, just when Mr. Nesbitt knew he was going to die, walking down the street trying to make my mind a blank screen” (128).
2. “They left and there was still too much Sunday left in my life.”

**Questions**

1. Who is Ernie? Why is his story significant to Steve’s story? Do you think he is guilty?
2. Discuss Steve’s mother’s visit to him in jail and how she reflects the universality of a mother’s love. How would your parents react in a similar situation?
3. How does Steve view the “real” world apart from jail?
4. What was Mrs. Henry’s testimony? How did Briggs question this testimony? How did he attempt to discredit it?
5. Describe Bobo’s attitude and appearance in court. How is it prejudicial? How does the judge react?
6. What is “whole calendar” (147) put together a payroll crew (149) “heavy and a half”? A “chrome”?
7. Why does Briggs suggest Bobo is saying things he is saying on the stand? What does “cop a plea” mean?
8. How does O’Brien refute Bobo’s testimony? What does she suggest through the last few questions she asks Bobo?
9. How do both defense attorneys (Briggs and O’Brien) portray Bobo?
10. What do the following slang expressions mean?:

* took a hit on some crank
* started a beef
* had to light him up because he was trying to muscle
* dropped a dime on him
* cop some rocks (184)

**Part Five:Tuesday, July 14th, pp. 201-281 Due \_\_\_11/12/12**

**Vocabulary**

1. subdued (208)
2. condescendingly (209)
3. surly (215)
4. vouch (236)
5. taint (243)
6. gullible (250)
7. acquit (253)
8. pensive (276)

**Literary Terms**

* 1. Define Theme:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Write THREE theme statements for the novel:

* 1. Symbol:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Identify two symbols and explain their meaning.

* 1. Denouement:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Identify the denouement of the story. Include page numbers.

**Important Quotations (Who said it and why is it important)**

1. Explain Steve’s statement to the other inmates, “Truth is truth. It’s what you know to be right.” How do they react? (p. \_\_\_\_\_ )
2. “Again, perhaps he [Steve] has even convinced himself that he wasn’t involved.” (262)

**Questions**

1. What is Steve contemplating at the beginning of these pages—201-205? Why?
2. How effective is the testimony of the two defense witnesses for King? Who are they? Explain.
3. Discuss O’Brien’s advice to Steve, her rationale, and the implications of the “game” that she plays with him. Why does O’Brien urge Steve to testify?
4. Discuss the two key prosecution points that the defense must refute.
5. Who takes the stand to clear Steve’s character? What does he say?
6. Examine and analyze the effectiveness of Brigg’s summation in King’s defense.
7. What is reasonable doubt? Why does O’Brien remind the jury of this before deliberating? Examine and analyze the effectiveness of O’Brien’s summation in Steve’s defense
8. Summarize and analyze the effectiveness of Petrocelli’s closing arguments for the State.

***Consider the closing statements of all three attorneys. How would you vote if you were the jury? Why?***

***\*VOTE: WILL STEVE HARMON BE FOUND GUILTY OR NOT GUILTY?***

1. What happens during the “waiting game” while the jury is deliberating?
2. Analyze the denouement. What are the verdicts of King and Steve? How does O’Brien react? Why do you think she does this?
3. What are Steve’s fears at the end of the novel? Why is he filming himself? Consider his father’s and O’Brien’s reactions to him after the verdict? What might this mean?

**Post-Reading Questions (Don’t answer these until I assign them, please.)**

1. Why is Steve an unlikely candidate to be involved in a robbery or murder?

2. Why doesn’t the author say whether Steve is innocent or guilty?

Look up the word “ambiguity.” Define it here: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

How is the ending of this novel ambiguous? Why?

What role must the reader take? Is it important that the reader know for certain what really happened? Why or why not?

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**Enrichment:**

* Does this book relate to your own life at all? Why or why not?
* Does this book have a lesson to teach? If so, what is it?
* This book won many awards when it was first published. Is the book deserving of an award? Why or why not?
* How did you feel about the formatting of the novel?
* If you enjoyed reading this novel, explain why.