

ENGLISH 9 & ENGLISH 9 HONORS

Name(s) _____

Period _____ Due Date ___/___/___

“Rabbit-Proof Fence”*By Phillip Noyce**“Find that rabbit fence, we go home. Then we see our mum.”
~ Molly Craig***Essential Guidelines for All Questions:**

- state the question you are addressing
- must be computer-generated/typed
- edit carefully & cite supporting evidence
- submit a printout or e-mail a .doc, .docx or OpenOffice attachment to DeMieroV@edmonds.wednet.edu

Part One: Setting

Setting refers to the time, place, and culture in which the action of a narrative takes place. The elements of **setting** may include geographic location, characters’ physical and mental environments, prevailing cultural attitudes, or the historical time in which the action takes place. Pick **one** of the questions below and answer it thoroughly in 2 ¶s or less. Please cite evidence from the film and any other applicable source.

1. Describe the **setting** with an emphasis on the *time period* in which this film is set. Briefly address the importance of the *time period* and its impact on the story.
2. Describe the **setting** with an emphasis on the *geographic location* in which this film is set. Briefly address the importance of the *geographic location* and its impact on the story.
3. Describe the **setting** with an emphasis on the *prevailing political and cultural attitudes* in which this film is set. Address the importance of the *prevailing political and cultural attitudes* and their impact on the story.

Part Two: Conflict

Conflict is either **internal** or **external**. **Internal** conflicts are conflicts within the character, such as a character battling with her feelings or thoughts. We refer to these conflicts as *person v. self*. **External** conflicts include: *person v. person*, *person v. society*, *person v. nature*, *person v. fate*, *person v. technology*, and *person v. supernatural*. Pick **one** of the questions below and answer it thoroughly in 2 ¶s or less. Cite evidence from the film and any other applicable source.

4. Consider the **conflict** from the girls’ point of view. Clearly state whether the **conflict** is *internal* or *external* and then to what category it belongs. Explain.
5. Consider the **conflict** from Mr. Neville’s point of view. Clearly state whether the **conflict** is *internal* or *external* and then to what category it belongs. Explain.
6. Consider the **conflict** from your own perspective. Clearly state whether the **conflict** is *internal* or *external* and then to what category it belongs. Explain.

Part Three: Characterization

Characterization is the way an author presents, develops and describes characters. Pick **one** of the questions below and answer it thoroughly in 2 ¶s or less. Please cite evidence from the film and any other applicable source.

7. Who is/are the **protagonist(s)** in this film? Explain.
8. Briefly describe the **characterization** of A.O. Neville (played by Kenneth Branagh). Is he a **flat** or **round** character? What is his **motivation**? Explain.
9. Briefly describe the **characterization** of Molly Craig (the oldest girl). What are some of the key events, experiences and behaviors that serve as evidence of her development as a character? Explain.

ENGLISH 9 & ENGLISH 9 HONORS

Part Four: Choice Response

Pick *one* of the following questions below and address it in a thorough manner. Depth of thought and analysis is what counts here, not hot air. Please cite evidence from the film and any other applicable source.

10. Many poets, lyricists, novelists and artists have created work thematically lamenting a loss of innocence and the transition from childhood to adulthood. How is “Rabbit-Proof Fence” such a work? How does the film focus on the **theme** of *loss of innocence* or *coming of age*? You may certainly reference other works we have read and seen. Defend your perspective in a 3- to 5-¶ essay.
11. Mr A.O. Neville uses many words and phrases to justify taking the girls away. Some of them include: “unwanted third race,” “advance to white status,” “in spite of himself, the native must be helped,” Aborigines are “our special responsibility,” etc. Imagine years later Molly meets with Neville and has a chance to address his actions and rationale. Write a 3- to 5-¶ dialogue between the two that you imagine would have taken place.
12. Research the specific details of the girls’ journey. Create a multi-media presentation (PowerPoint, Keynote, Prezi, etc.) that provides a better understanding of just how far they traveled and the perils they likely faced.
13. Many Australians agree with the government’s decision to officially apologize to Aborigines for the actions taken such as those depicted in this film. Look into the pros and cons of making such an apology. What do you think? Should the government have issued an apology? Defend your perspective in a 3- to 5-¶ essay.
14. Does the girls’ story fit the definition of a **hero’s journey**? Refer to the information on the class website for further information about the concept of a hero’s journey in literature. Explain whether the girls’ journey fits by providing evidence from the film.
15. Consider the concepts of **fate** and **freewill**. How do these two opposites play out in this story? Of these two forces, which one do you believe impacts the story more? Are we all – or just some people – simply destined to live a certain, specific life? Or are we fully in control of our destiny? Explain and defend your response with plenty of evidence from the film and any other applicable source.

Part Five: Honors/Extra Credit

Address the question below in a creative manner that also directly references the film.

- H/X. Consider the concept of **perseverance**. How is “Rabbit-Proof Fence” a story of perseverance? Create something that clearly acknowledges the connections you find to perseverance in this film. **Ideas:** a poem, a mobile, a poster, an original song, a drawing or painting, etc. *You are encouraged to work with others on this.*

Notes:

Release Date2002
 Directed byPhillip Noyce
 Screenplay byChristine Olsen
 Book by.....Doris Pilkington

Characters:

Everlyn SampiMolly Craig
 Tianna SansburyDaisy Kadibill
 Laura Monaghan.....Gracie Fields
 David Gulpilil.....Moodoo

Ningali LawfordMaud (mother)
 Myarn Lawford.....Grandmother
 Deborah MailmanMavis (aunt)
 Jason Clarke.....Constable Riggs
 Kenneth BranaghA. O. Neville
 Natasha Wanganeen.....Nina, dorm boss
 Garry McDonald.....Mr. Neal
 Roy BillingPolice Inspector
 Lorna Leslie.....Miss Thomas
 Celine O’LearyMiss Jessop