

CHAPTER TWO:

1. Origins of Words: (Dictionary skills)

Stephen's story took place in 1212. But when/where were the words first used?

Use your dictionary to find the origin of these words which make the story more believable: holiest, priest, blasphemy, mission, crusade.

Example: faith – <OF (Old French) *feit, feid* < L (Latin) *fides*<*fidere* to trust.

Tip: Try using rootwords if your first search was not successful.

2. Mysterious Stranger: (Individual interpretations)

One of the pleasures of reading, is that rather than watching a movie, you can envision the character's appearance related to your life experiences.

- * When you first read about Stephen's strange visitor how did you imagine he looked?
- * Sharing your interpretation - a choice: draw a detailed picture, capturing the spirit of the stranger OR write two or three paragraphs filled with word pictures that bring him/her to life.
- * Create a bulletin board titled, Through Our Eyes, by displaying the pictures and paragraphs.
- * Take time to observe the diversity of the images. Ask yourself why you pictured the 'visitor' the way you did. Ask someone whose image is quite different than your's the same question.

3. Act it Out: (Ability to recreate a piece of writing in another form)

Work as a team to create and act out a play. Stephen's family is always arguing, yelling, hitting and insulting. But the worst fight happened when his father discovered the missive.

* In groups of four (one director/narrator, three actors) rewrite pg.19-20 as a script. Remember: except for director's notes (or the use of a narrator) only spoken words are used in a play.

* Videotape a rehearsal. Discuss what works and how you can improve what doesn't. Focus on facial expressions, body language, volume, clarity and tone of voice.

* When you are happy with your finished product perform it for the other groups.

4. Your Character Journal: (Identify your own responses to a character as the story unfolds)

* Begin a page for each character. Divide the page in half.

* On one side describe in point form, the character's actions and opinions. On the other record your impressions, reactions, feelings about that person. At the end of each chapter update each character by adding new facts and reactions.

(Tip: By using sticky notes to mark information as you read, you will save time rereading.)