*The following charts should be apart of each Literature Circle Discussion and should be added to throughout your reading/ preparation of the novel. Remember to make note of page numbers, chapters, sections, etc. as this will help you in preparation for the essay.*

Discuss the relevant **themes** as they are **presented** and **developed**:

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| **Theme** | **Chapter, or Section, the Theme is Presented In…** | **How The Theme Develops As The Novel Goes On…** |
| **Value of nature****- Saul’s truth/ innocence lies in nature** | **Section 1** – Naomi insists on taking the family to God’s Lake in order to bring the children back to their traditional roots**Section 2** – the children at the residential school and their connection to the river/ fish**Section 4** – Saul discovers comes to terms with his life experiences upon his return to God’s Lake | Only in nature, do Saul and the children feel that sense of peace/ home – they can try to repress it, or forget it, but it always comes back/ calls to them |
| **Racism****- has long-lasting effects when experienced over time- is not easily forgotten** | **Section 2** – all of the experiences felt by Saul and the other children at the residential school**Section 3** – Saul and the Moose’s experiences vs. white teams and Saul’s Toronto experience**Section 4** – Saul’s experiences in the work camps/ bars | Each experience with racism builds until it eventually breaks Saul |
| **Identity - assimilation is inevitable**  | **Chapter 7** – when Saul’s parents insist on a Christian burial and leave Saul with his grandmother**Chapter 10** – despite trying to hide/ escape, Saul is eventually taken to the residential school | Saul struggles with this throughout the novel, and in Sections 3 and 4, he ends up perpetuating the “Indian” stereotype by being a violent hockey player and a drunk – he is finally able to begin to come to terms with who he wants to be, in Section 4 after being at the New Dawn Centre, God’s Lake and returning to the Kelly’s |
| **Isolation****- acts as a means of self-preservation when facing trauma- is ultimately damaging** | **Section 2** – at St. Jerome’s Saul uses this as a means to protect himself from what is going on around him – he tries to tune it all out/ shut himself down**Section 4** – Saul journeys off on his own in order to deal with the rage that continues to build within him  | Ultimately, Saul needs to be around people in order to help bring him out of his rage (i.e. the Kelly’s and the Moose after St. Jerome’s and Erv, Moses at the New Dawn Centre and the Kelly’s on his way back from alcoholism and his discovery of the abuse he endured as a child) |
| **Tragedy - prolonged tragedy leads to trauma** | **Section 1 –** Saul’s family (siblings, grandmother, etc.)**Section 2 –** The residential school horrors that he witnessed, initially suppressed**Section 4 –** The built up rage, trauma, sadness comes to a boiling point – Saul crying at the Residential School |  |
| **There is good amongst evil – something that Saul can find comfort in** | **Section 2** – brought to the residential school, but is introduced to hockey; gets kicked off Town team but meets the Kelly, etc.  |  |

Pay attention to changes in the **setting** and their effect on the novel:

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| **Setting** | **Chapter Where The Setting Appears** | **Effect Of The Setting On The Novel** |
| **Winnipeg RiverManitobaNorthern Ontario** | Section 1 | - Locations of tribes- Wilderness as it pertains to Indigenous Peoples |
| **New Dawn Centre** | Section 1Section 4 | - Saul is at this centre at the beginning of the novel- he returns there to continue with his treatment (staying sober, living with the fact that he was abused) |
| **St. Jerome’s****(“St. Germs”)** | Section 2 | - Hell on earth- A place where Saul feels he must isolate himself- The scene where deaths, humiliation, abuse, occurs |
| **St. Jerome’s Hockey Rink** | Section 2Section 4 | - Saul’s salvation- Where Saul falls in love with the game of hockey/ realizes his potential/ vision- Where Saul comes to terms with/ realizes the abuse that he endured at the hands of Father Leboutillier |
| **God’s Lake** | Section 1Section 4 | - Where Saul’s family’s ancestry is founded- Where Saul’s truths are revealed |
| **Toronto** | Section 3 | - Where Saul experiences discrimination, racism and isolation - Anger and rage begin to build in Saul at this point  |
| **Manitouwadge** | Section 3Section 4 | - Where the Kelly’s live, where Saul joined the Moose- Saul has a sense of joy and family here, but also experiences restlessness on his journey to find himself |

Trace **changes** in **existing characters** and **consistent behaviours** of others. Continue to add **new characters** as they are introduced:

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| **Character Name & Chapter, or Section, Where They are Introduced**  | **Description of Relevant Physical & Personality Traits** | **Observations of Changes and/or Consistent Behaviours…** |
| **Saul Indian Horse** (protagonist)Page 1 | -Ojibway (Fish clan of Northern Ojibway – Anishinabeg)- small and scrawny from the ages of 7-13- matures and becomes more muscular through hockey training | **Section 1** – has to mature quickly due to death of grandmother and brother/ abandoned by his parents- he fears the white man **Section 2** – develops his love for hockey – has to isolate himself in order to cope with the horrors of the residential school**Section 3** – feels happier due to having a home and the necessities of life (with a “family”) – enjoys playing with the Moose, feels like part of a team, hockey is the most enjoyable for him, here (until they start playing the white teams)- reluctantly joins the Toronto Marlies, makes the team, experiences constant racism and discrimination – loses love for the game and becomes bitter and enraged**Section 4** – stops playing hockey, becomes a “working man” who travels often (restless)- faces the same discrimination and racism at the work camps which continues to feed his bitterness and rage – he turns to alcohol- when taken to the hospital and eventually New Dawn Centre he begins to uncover the source of his rage- faces the fact (at the school) that he was sexually abused by Father L.- must try to live with his past and re-build/ recover |
| **Saul’s Grandmother****(Naomi)** (Chapters 1 to 10) | - old, wise, Ojibway, traditional, patient, stubborn, protective | **Section 1 –** always loyal to her religion and culture – wants to ensure that her grandchildren have that same loyalty- weary of the white man (alcohol and threat of residential schools)- main mother-like figure – takes on the role of raising Saul |
| **Saul’s Mother & Father****(Mary & John)**(Chapters 1 to 10) | **Mary –** frail and broken due to her experiences at the residential school and loss of both Rachel and Benjamin**John** – alcoholic, gambler, tries to provide for his family | **Mary (Section 1 )** – is converted to Christianity and made to think that the Ojibway traditions are wrong**John (Section 1)** – seems to be lost due to his experiences at the residential school, sides with his wife, but doesn’t completely seem to accept the “white” ways- They BOTH abandon Saul |
| **Saul’s Siblings(Benjamin & Rachel)**(Chapters 1 to 10) | **Rachel –** was the oldest sibling**Benjamin** – Saul’s older brother, runs away from residential school and is sick with TB | **Rachel’s** taken to the residential school and never seen again (Saul never met her)**Benjamin –** described as “different” after running away from the school – body of a boy but looks like a man due to what he had seen/ experienced – he dies from TB |
| **Father Gaston Leboutillier**(Chapter 15) | - Catholic, young priest, seems compassionate, passion for hockey, pedophile  | **Section 2** – acted as an ally for Saul – noticed Saul’s ability/ passion for the game and took him “under his wing” – appeared as a “father” to Saul **Section 3** – visits Saul for the last time, says that he’s free and should “Go with God”**Section 4 –** his abuse of Saul is revealed  |
| **Mr. Fred Kelly &** **Mrs. Martha Kelly**(Chapter 24 to end) | - hardworking folks, friends/ family to Saul, victims of residential school, very understanding | **Section 2** – Fred agrees to have Saul live with his family**Section 3 –** Fred and Martha continue to be supportive of Saul’s decisions on & off the ice**Section 4** – Fred and Martha are finally able to talk to Saul about their shared experiences at the residential school |
| **Virgil Kelly**(Chapter 25 to end) | -large, strong, hockey player and youngest son, but older than Saul, captain of the Moose- father and husband, coach of the minor hockey team | **Section 3** – acts as a brother to Saul, takes him under his wing, pushes Saul to go to the NHL**Section 4 –** initially mad at Saul for leaving, but their relationship remains like brothers, and eventually welcomes Saul back |
| **Erv Sift**(Chapters 45 to 46) | - Farmer, and widower, saviour to Saul, “professional nice guy”, needs/ wants companionship  | **Section 4** – helps Saul get sober, understands when Saul needs to talk, when he needs to listen, when he needs work, space/ distraction - doesn’t ask for anything in return, but friendship  |
| **Moses**(Chapter 49) | - a social worker/ counselor at New Dawn Centre | - slightly skeptical, but supportive of Saul’s recovery |

Make note of important **symbols** and explain them:

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| **Symbols** | **Chapter, or Section, the Symbol is Presented In…** | **What Makes This Symbol Significant, or Important?** |
| **“St. Germ’s”** | Section 2Section 4 | - A symbol of hell-like memories, conditions for Saul- Reoccurring memories, implying that it will always be apart of Saul/ there are unresolved issues, feelings |
| **Game of Hockey** | Section 2Section 3 | - A symbol of freedom and escape- Allows Saul to be a visionary, like his Grandfather- Gives Saul purpose and joy (through skill, love of the game, teammates)- Becomes something that Saul hates because it highlights racism, discrimination and feelings of shame/ disgust (Toronto Hockey Team, and his relationship with Father Leboutillier which was rooted in their mutual love of the game) |
| **God’s Lake - Visions** | Section 1Section 4 | - A place where Saul can truly find himself- Connection to family/ connection to Aboriginal Culture- Where truth is revealed |
| **Alcohol**  | Section 1Section 4 | - A symbol for the hold the “white man” has on the indigenous population (Saul’s parents in section 1)- A tool used to forget/ escape |
| **Rocks** | Sections 1-4 | - A symbol for crushed dreams and death/ loss |
| **The Fish** | Section 2 | - A representation of the children in nature/ loss of culture and innocence  |
| **The Grandmother (Naomi) - Visions** | Section 1 | - A representation of the Ojibway culture and with her death comes the death of their culture for Saul |
| **Indoor Rinks vs. Outdoor Rinks** | Section 3 | Indoor represents – flat, white, all the same, full of discriminationOutdoor represents – nature, connection to culture, freedom  |