

HANDOUT

Analyzing “Aha” Moments

Directions: Following the instructions for each step of this group activity, gather evidence from the text and record notes in the space provided.

Character’s Name: _____

Step 1: Collect “Aha” Moments

Directions: Review the text and identify five “aha” moments where your character has an important realization or comes to a new understanding about themselves or their world. These moments might be positive or negative, depending on how they impact your character.

Scene (page)	What happens in this scene?	What does the character learn?

Step 2: Graph the “Aha” Moments

Directions: On the positive-negative line graph below, graph the “aha” moments you identified (double-click on the graph below and use lines, text, and shapes to plot your “aha” moments). Consider whether they had a positive or negative impact on your character’s sense of self, belonging, or understanding about the world when deciding where to plot them on your graph.

Positive-Negative Line Graph



Step 3: Group Discussion

Directions: Discuss the following questions as a group, referring to your chart from Step 1 and line graph from Step 2, as well as the text and your own experiences, to develop your ideas.

1. How do you think **your character** would answer the question, “Which ‘aha’ moment is most significant to you?” What makes you say that?
2. In **your opinion**, which “aha” moment do you think is most significant for your character? When responding, consider what they learned about themselves, others, and/or their world.
3. *Perspective* refers to how a character views and processes what is happening in the story. How do one or more of the “aha” moments you identified shape your character’s perspective? Consider their perspective about their own identity, their relationships with others, and their sense of belonging in the world.
4. How can reflecting on a literary character’s “aha” moments teach us lessons that we might apply to our own lives? What makes you say that?