

Writing About the Novel *Nothing to Fear*

by
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Editor's Note: Chuck Miller provides the following instructions for his students. He notes that the dodecahedron pattern was provided by Diana Detamore of Mary Washington and the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts Studio School, who did a presentation on creative journals at the 2001 VATE Conference in Hampton.

- I. The Essay: Write a paper in which you discuss the following topic: How does Danny remain a child, yet become an adult?

The introductory paragraph should include the title of the novel and the author's name. The introduction should also introduce the topic and explain the purpose of the essay. Last, but certainly not least, the opening paragraph should grab your reader's interest and make the reader want to continue with the rest of your paper.

Your middle paragraphs of the paper are where you develop your topic. You should have lots of examples (no less than four) for each part of the topic. The examples should be well explained and not just listed. Examples should come from throughout the novel and not just from one part of it like the beginning or the end.

The concluding paragraph should satisfactorily end your essay. You might restate your main points or your topic in a creative way. If your paper has a good conclusion, there is no need to write "The End."

- II. The Dodecahedron: You will construct a dodecahedron. On it you will illustrate twelve scenes. Four will depict examples of local color. Four will depict significant historical details from the novel. Four will depict important scenes from the novel (one from chapters 1-12, one from chapters 13-24, one from chapters 25-36, one from chapters 37-48). Number each scene. You may not use clip art.

You will make a key for your dodecahedron. The key will include a paragraph for each of the twelve illustrations. Each paragraph should be numbered, and the number should correspond to the scene it represents on the dodecahedron. The paragraph should explain what is happening in the scene and why you chose to include it. Use lots of examples, details, and reasons.

Directions for making dodecahedron: Cut out the pattern along the solid lines and fold along the dotted lines. Fold each triangular tab under the adjacent pentagon and tape or glue down. Make sure you finish drawing and coloring your illustrations before you tape or glue the figure together.

Dodecahedron

