

## Short Story Socio-gram

**Choose a story from the list below and then make a creative socio-gram.**

**Story choices:** “The Painted Door”, “Sound of the Hollyhocks”, “The Cask of Amontillado”, “The Fall of a City”, “The Stolen Party” (I have paper copies and digital on my website).

**What is a socio-gram?** It is a visual representation of the relationships among characters and other the key elements in a literary text.

**What is its purpose?** It helps you think more deeply about the literary text you have read.

**What does it look like?** A socio-gram uses pictures, symbols, shapes, colours, and line styles to demonstrate characters' relationships and other important ideas. Remember, relationships change during a story; therefore, you need to graphically illustrate the changing relationships on your socio-gram. Also, represent the characters' traits and the emerging primary and secondary conflicts, the plot, themes, & important story elements.

**Organization:** Use a larger paper and organize your ideas sensibly and consider that it must make sense to the “reader” of the socio-gram. It should reveal your comprehension and analysis of the story and be creative. It can be drawn, computer generated, or “cut and paste.” Generate ideas first, create a rough diagram, and decide the best way to reflect your understanding of the text.

**What should it look like?** The central characters are placed at the center of the page and the other characters are placed around him/her. The spatial relationship on the page should in some way represent each of the character's relationship with the main character, as well as with each other (near or far away is suggestive of emotional connection or perceived psychological issues between them.). Lines/arrows are used to show the “direction and nature” of the relationship (e.g., strength/weakness, friend/foe, dominance/ submissiveness, etc.). Use pictures, symbols, shapes, and colours to show your interpretation.

*A number of other conventions may be useful in developing socio-gram:*

- Let the size/shape/symbol of a character metaphorically represent each personality, importance, one's power or lack of power, etc.
- Circle active characters with a solid line; circle significantly absent characters with a broken line.
- Show the direction of a relationship by an arrow/line, and its nature by a brief label (the lines can be creatively applied: What might the following types of lines indicate: A jagged line? A wavy line? The thickness of the line? Etc.).
- Explore creative ways to represent a character's motivation. For example, inside each “character's circle” might be one or more words that seem to capture the essence of that character. Immediately outside the circle could be a series of arrows that represent the forces that influence that character.
- Include 3-4 important images from the story, the dominant symbols, foreshadowing, and the theme (by the use of color or visual symbols).