

Heart of Darkness Tracking Poster

In pairs, you will prepare a presentation on a particular aspect of this novel. You will be allowed to select one topic from the list below. As you read the novel, pay special attention to the way Conrad presents this topic. Jot down the sentences and page numbers where it is mentioned and write your ideas for its meaning.

You will then make a Tracking Poster about your topic. It should include:

- ◇ A thesis statement at the top – a statement explaining the significance of your topic. Your thesis statement will likely be a theme of the novel since a theme--a controlling idea in a literary work—is often found as an abstract idea that derives from the actions and dialogues of the characters, the use of symbols and recurring images, and the manipulation of other literary devices.
- ◇ 5-8 supporting passages from the novel (with page numbers). These passages should cover the range of the novel and should not be just from one section.
- ◇ An explanation accompanying each supporting passage which analyzes the significance of each passage and its importance to the theme.
- ◇ A creative visual (the poster itself) that is appropriate to your theme.

You will discuss the novel through these posters. You will need to explain your use of quotations, how they support your thesis, why you chose them. By the time each of you has shared your information with the class, we will have covered the important aspects of the novel.

Topics:

1. Marlow, the narrator
2. Mr. Kurtz
3. The District Manager
4. Comparison of Kurtz's fiancée and Kurtz's native mistress
5. Good and Evil
6. Comparison of Kurtz and Marlow
7. Savagery
8. Irony
9. Archetypal Quest
10. Jungle/nature imagery
11. Use of Colors
12. Thames vs. Congo River
13. Pilgrims
14. Whited Sepulcher
15. Eldorado Exploring Expedition
16. Fate
17. Restraint
18. Kurtz's paper on colonization
19. The ideal and the truth
20. The lie
21. Plato's cave and the heart of darkness
22. The treatment of women in the novel

Name _____

Name _____

Date _____

Topic _____

Tracking Poster Grading Rubric

Thesis Statement (25 points)

_____ A full, declarative sentence

_____ Incorporates the entire opinion or point of the Tracking Poster

Support (60 points)

_____ 5-8 Appropriately chosen quotes

_____ Documented page numbers

_____ Explanation of quote and your theme's role

_____ Quality of thought

The Poster Itself (15 points)

_____ Visually appealing

_____ Appropriately chosen

_____ Creative – Symbolical and imaginative

Grade Earned: _____ /100 points