



## *Civil War Novel Book Report*

### *Learning Goals*

The goals of the Civil War novel reading project are as follows...

- Students will provide an accurate summary of texts.
- Students will distinguish between historic facts, and author speculation in a text.
- Students will describe the causes and long-term impacts of the Civil War, and
- Students will explain what issues were not resolved by the end of the Civil War.

The following assignment is how students will demonstrate that they have achieved these goals.

### *Submitting Your Book Report*

Step 1:	As you read your novel, make notes on the attached <b>Book Report Draft Sheet</b> .
Step 2:	When you have finished the book, transfer the information from your <b>Draft Sheet</b> to the online <b>Civil War Book Report Form</b> at <b>Wufoo.com</b> . <i>A link to this form can be found in the Assignment Bank page at <a href="http://mrcushing.net">mrcushing.net</a>.</i>
Step 3:	Once Wufoo sends you the <u>email</u> confirming your submission, copy & paste the <u>text</u> of your submission into a new <b>Word</b> , <b>Pages</b> , or <b>GoogleDoc</b> file. Do not copy the entire email... just copy the <u>text</u> of your responses.
Step 4:	Reformat your new file so that it looks <b>exactly</b> like the attached report sample.
Step 5:	When done, upload your book report to <b>TurnItIn.com</b> , and submit it. Instructions on how to upload a file using Turn-It-In can be found in your <b>History Infographic</b> .

### *Due Dates*

- Your book report is due by: \_\_\_\_\_

# *Civil War Book Report Draft Sheet*

**Novel Title** • What is the title of the novel that you read?

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**Author** • Who wrote this novel?

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**Setting** • Describe the novel's setting. Setting includes both physical location AND the time period.

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**Protagonist** • Describe the main character of the novel.

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**Antagonist** • The antagonist is another person — or really anything — that challenges the protagonist.

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**Vocabulary** • List five new words that you learned from this novel, AND their definitions.


**Conflict** • Describe the novel's conflict. (man vs. man, man vs. nature, man vs. self, etc.)

**Plot** • Summarize the plot of the novel.

**Histoic Facts vs. Speculation ...**

Give one example from the novel where the author uses historic fact ...

... and one example where it feels like the author is using their own speculation about history.

John Smith  
Mr. Cushing  
American History, Period X  
17 Dec. 2014

**SAMPLE**

**Book Report:**

***Gone with the Wind***

Novel Title:      *Gone with the Wind*

Author:            Margaret Mitchell

Setting:            Atlanta, 1861

Protagonist:

**Scarlett O'Hara** - Scarlett possesses remarkable talent for business and leadership. She recovers her father's plantation, Tara, after the war leaves it decimated, and she achieves great success with her sawmill in Atlanta. Despite her sharp intelligence, however, she has almost no ability to understand the motivations and feelings of herself or others. Scarlett lives her life rationally: she decides what constitutes success, finds the most effective means to succeed, and does not consider concepts like honor and kindness. She often professes to see no other choices than the ones she makes.

Antagonist:

If finding true love is Scarlett's main goal, who is her main antagonist? Ashley Wilkes is the one she's constantly pining after, yet his honor and fidelity always thwarts her devious schemes. But this goal is not a goal at all, it's an illusion. In a scene near the beginning, Scarlett's father Gerald says "I want my girl to be happy. You'd not be happy with him." And like all good stories do, that sets up the main conflict right at the beginning: the pursuit of an impossible dream. Even a false goal could have a "false antagonist". But what she really desires is true love. She just doesn't realize it. The Yankees are a clear antagonist in the second part of the book, starting with the defeat of Atlanta and the destruction of Scarlett's way of life. Another antagonist throughout the book is Southern culture itself, which attempts to keep Scarlett from achieving her dreams. Scarlett, a willful daughter of the New South consistently runs into elements of the Old South which attempt to keep her from rising beyond her station as a Southern woman.

## Vocabulary:

**chicanery** - unethical methods, trickery

**pariah** - an outcast

**phalanx** - a close arrangement of people or things

**emaciated** - very thin (usually a result of starvation), wasting away

**ardor** - warmth or heat of emotion; extreme force, vigor, or energy

## Conflict:

The primary conflict throughout the story is two fold; it is between Scarlett O'Hara and the "old guard" or members of the southern culture as it was before the war and between Scarlett and Rhett Butler. Scarlett antagonizes her community with her own determination and lack of scruples in her drive to acquire money. Rhett himself is in love with Scarlett, but cannot tell her because she uses love as a tool to manipulate people and to hurt them. Consequently, although she is fond of him at times, she sees him primarily as a critic and a desperado entirely lacking in gentility.

## Plot:

The story describes the collapse of the Old South in the Civil War and its rebuilding during the Reconstruction era. It centers on beautiful, willful Scarlett O'Hara of Tara Plantation in Georgia. When she discovers that her love, Ashley Wilkes, is to marry Melanie Hamilton, she impetuously marries Charles Hamilton, who dies in the war two weeks later. She spends most of the war years in Atlanta but flees back to Tara before Sherman's army. She bravely faces danger and makes the vow that controls the rest of her life, "as God is my witness, I'm never going to be hungry again." She remarries for money and scandalizes Atlanta society by becoming a ruthless businesswoman.

After the death of her second husband, Scarlett marries the dashing, cynical Rhett Butler. However, her continued devotion to Ashley Wilkes destroys Rhett and Scarlett's chance for happiness. When she realizes Ashley's inadequacies, it is too late. Her avowal of love for Rhett is met by the response that the film version made famous, "My dear, I don't give a damn."

## Fact vs. Speculation:

The information given in the book about the Civil War stayed true to the actual events even though the book overlooks some major battles. At the beginning of the story, the fact that the Yankees were better equipped with their fleets and factories was stated by Rhett which showed the downfall of the South because of lack of supplies during the Civil War. When the news of General Lee's victory came, the South's moral was boosted but as Gettysburg approached, the South began to weaken. Battles like Bull Run were left unmentioned. The book projected the toll that the war would take on the South, economically and psychologically. During Sherman's March to the Sea, the Southerners had to leave their homes and seek refuge in other areas, many men were wounded, and there was little hope left in the South.