



THE DOOR OF NO RETURN

close readings

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CLOSE READINGS

THE DOOR OF NO RETURN

Close Reading 1.a – Chapter 1: The Story of Offin

Name: _____

Story Structure | Text Features | Author's Craft

Author of *The Door of No Return*, Kwame Alexander, crafts an amazing narrative, and the structure of the novel is unique. Alexander's stylistic decisions help develop meaning and allow readers to make important connections. Let's examine author's craft to identify important aspects of the text and analyze them for their deeper meaning. Complete the graphic organizer below.

Novel Element	Structure & Style Analysis	
Adinkra Stamp	What is this text feature? Describe the feature.	Why do you think the author includes this feature?
	»»	»»
How does this element create meaning in the text? How does it deepen your understanding of the story?		

Novel Element	Structure & Style Analysis	
Introductory Prose "The Story of Offin"	Describe the structure of the chapter in relation to the prose.	Why do you think the author structured the novel this way?
	»»	»»
How does this structure create meaning in the text? How does it deepen your understanding of the story?		

➤ 24 Close Reading Assignments

➤ Notes for Literary Elements

➤ Graphic Organizers to Scaffold Learning

➤ Literary Skills-Based

CLOSE READINGS

Novel Element	Structure & Style Analysis	
Conversations	Describe how the author crafts dialogue.	Why do you think the author crafts dialogue in this way?
	How does the style of dialogue shape or deepen your understanding of the story?	

➤ 3 Whole Novel Analysis Assignments

➤ Rigorous & Creative Tasks

Novel Element	Structure & Style Analysis	
Poems	Describe the structure of the chapter in relation to the poems.	Why do you think the author structured the novel this way?
	How does this structure create meaning in the text? How does it deepen your understanding of the story?	

➤ Accommodate for ALL Learners

➤ Text-Based Questions & Analysis

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Close Reading 3.a – Chapter 3: The Story of the Wrestlers – Reversal

Name: _____

Flashback

- Flashback is a _____ of events prior to the start of the story or earlier in the story.
- _____ are also considered flashbacks.
- Flashbacks have deeper meanings because they give _____ or _____ into current events.
- Specifically, flashbacks serve three purposes in literature:
 1. Provide insight into _____.
 2. Increase _____.
 3. _____ the past with the present.

Directions: Reread "A Midsummer Night," focusing on Kofi's dream. First identify and summarize the flashback. Next, identify key details of the flashback. Finally, interpret the deeper meaning of the detail or how it "shines a light" on important aspects of the story.

Flashback Summary – What is the flashback about?

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Flashback Analysis – Shine a Light

Important Flashback Detail	Interpret this detail from Kofi's dream. How does this flashback detail help you understand Kofi, his conflict, and his story better?




➤ Comprehensive Answer Key

➤ Thorough Examination of the Text

➤ Google Slides™ Links

➤ Great for Rotation Model & Centers

CLOSE READINGS


THE DOOR OF NO RETURN  Novel Analysis 1: Adinkra Symbol Analysis

Name: _____

Symbols

- A symbol is usually an _____ that has a deeper meaning and represents something else.
 - Symbols take on significance beyond their _____ meaning.
 - Sometimes symbols can be a color, a figure, an action, an event, or a character.

Directions: In *The Door of No Return*, the author begins each chapter with an Adinkra symbol. For each graphic organizer, draw the Adinkra symbol for the chapter, explain its meaning, and then analyze how the symbol connects with the events, themes, characters, and other elements of the chapter.

THE DOOR OF NO RETURN  Novel Analysis 1: Adinkra Symbol Analysis

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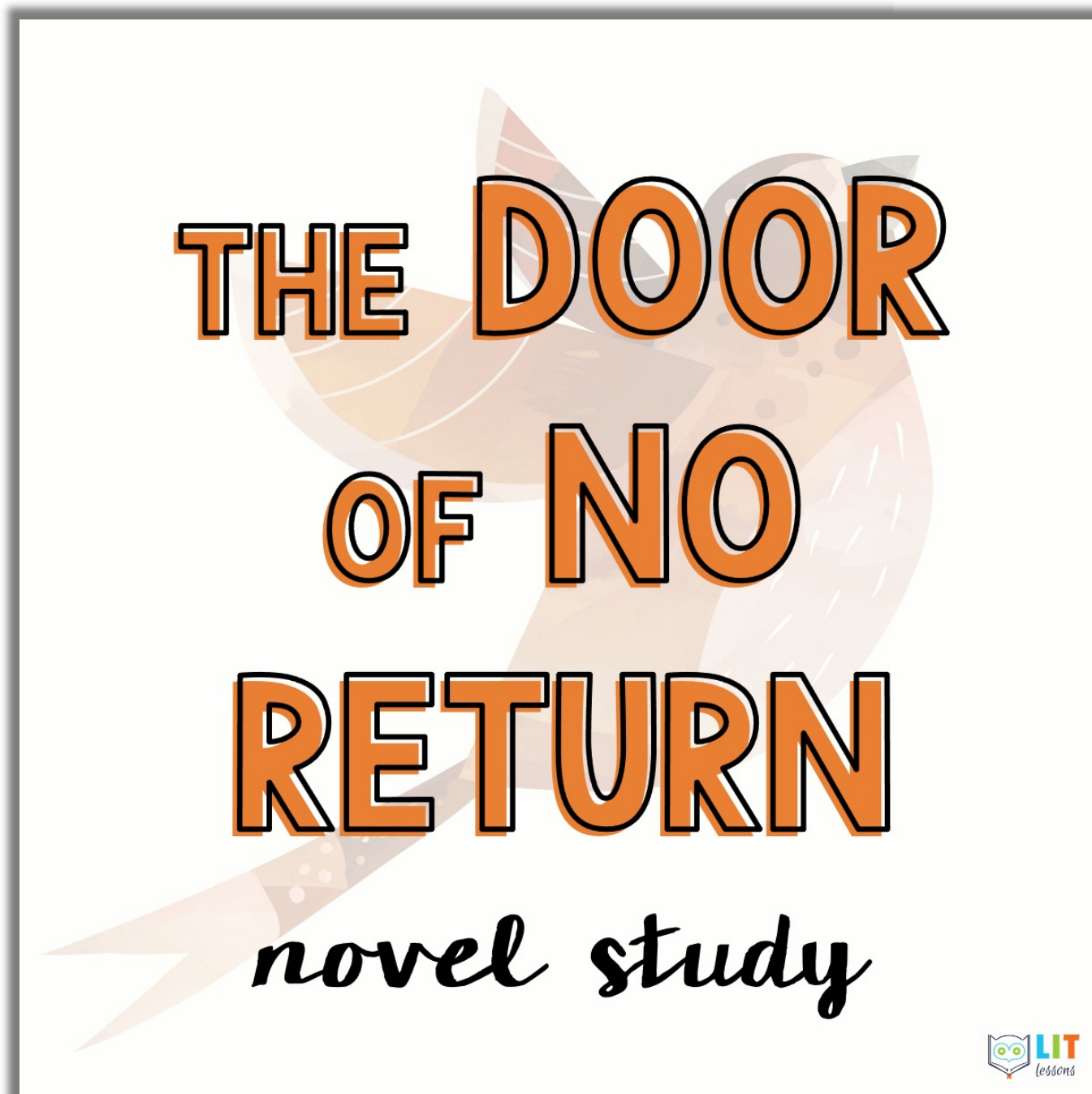
Adinkra Symbol	Adinkra Symbol Meaning
Chapter 1: Sankofa (Draw Below) Insert image here	What is the deeper meaning of this symbol? Type here

➤ Use to Differentiate for Students' Needs

➤ Focus Standards: Conflict, Theme, Character, Symbolism, Tone & Mood, Plot, Flashback, Setting, Point of View, Suspense & More

BUNDLE & SAVE

This resource is part of a comprehensive unit on *The Door of No Return*! Click the cover below to preview all the resources available.



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