Section One “Mystery Envelopes” close reading tasks

1. Identify the major and minor conflicts in the story. Pay attention to how the author develops these conflicts. (person vs – five forms)

2. Identify the major and minor themes found in the novel. Pay attention to how the author develops these themes. (Use a rough definition for the term theme. It won’t be a formalized “lesson” like you studied as ninth grade students…not just yet).

3. Identify the major and minor symbols found in the novel. Pat attention to how the author develops these symbols. (Varicose ulcer?)

4. Track how the author uses language (description, imagery, metaphor, irony, humor) to make the story richer.