

The Wizard of Earthsea Writing Strategy

Purpose: The purpose of this activity is to have students tap into their multiple intelligences. Students will be using their creativity to produce a book jacket while utilizing their writing skills. This makes a perfect post-reading activity because the panels of the book jacket depend on the students being finished with reading the novel.

Context: Since this book jacket project focuses on different aspects of the novel, the project can be used as a review, or as a step to a great final class discussion. When presenting their finished product, the class may view each jacket critically as to what was the same and what was different in each jacket. For example, when showing the adjectives a student chose for the main character, students may say why they agree or disagree with the choice of words.

Time: The final forty minutes of a class period may be devoted to the measuring and making of the initial jacket. This includes giving the instructions and modeling the “How To’s” of the project. (From experience, there will probably not be enough rulers for everyone, and you will have to repeat steps several times.) Older students may be expected to finish the book jacket as homework each day (about a week), or you may allow twenty minutes at the end each class period for two weeks for younger students.

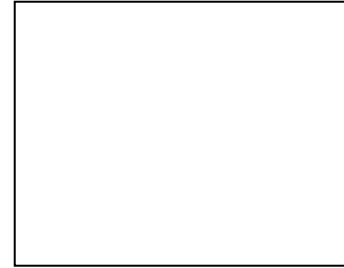
Directions to Students: see handout –Poster board will be provided for you. No other material for the jacket will be accepted. All written requirements will be type-written. Except for the spine panel, fonts must be in 12 pt, unless the font is too small to read. No paragraphs may be written in 14 pt or higher. You may use pictures from magazines for your illustrations, however drawn illustrations are preferred. Add graphics only when an illustration is not required, such as on panels 5 and 6. Be careful that your jacket doesn’t suffer from graphic overload. Information about the novel’s author may come from reliable Internet sources, or from the novel itself.

Assessment: Students will show that they understand the assignment by meeting all of the requirements for each panel and showing creativity with pictures and word choice.



The Wizard of Earthsea
Book Jacket Project

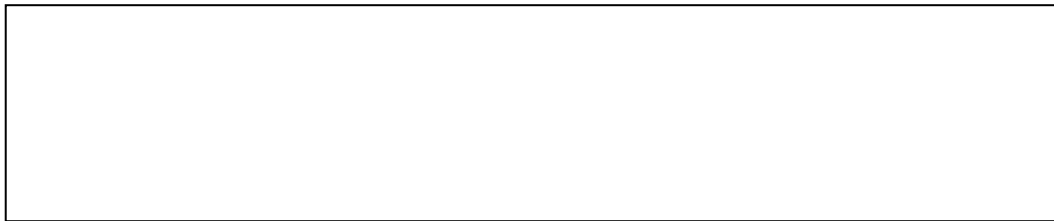
Directions: You will create a book jacket that tells about *The Wizard of Earthsea* as well as the novel's author.



Constructing the Book Jacket

To construct the jacket for the novel, you will use a large sheet of poster board.

- 1- Cut a sheet of poster board 11 inches high by 2 feet long.
- 2- From the LEFT side, measure in 4 inches and place a light pencil mark.
- 3- Also place a mark 11 inches from the left side.
- 4- Repeat steps 2 and 3 at least three times down the paper.
- 5- With a ruler and a pencil, lightly draw a line along the 4-inch marks and 11-inch marks.
- 6- Follow steps 2 through 5 measuring from the RIGHT side of the paper. Your poster should now look like the illustration below at the left.



- 7- Fold the paper inward along the 4-inch guideline.
- 8- Fold the paper inward along the 11-inch guidelines so that it looks like a book jacket. It should now look like the right-hand illustration.
- 9- Open up the book jacket and place it in front of you so that the outside of the book jacket is facing up.
- 10- Starting from the left, lightly number the panels 1-5.
- 11- Turn the book jacket over. Starting from the left, lightly number the panels 6-10. You are now ready to start creating the panels for your book jacket.

Constructing the Panels

COVER/PANEL 4: Design a cover for your book jacket that includes the title of the book, the author's name, and your name. Include a related illustration.

SPINE/PANEL 3: Use creative lettering to design a spine for your book jacket. Include the title of the book and the author's name. Write the name of the publisher at the bottom of the panel.

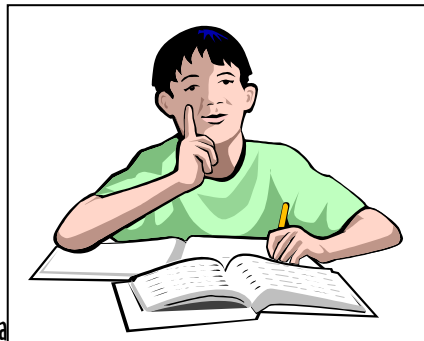
BACK COVER/PANEL 2: On the top half of panel 2, write a paragraph that highlights the most exciting element of the book. This paragraph should make the reader want to read the book but should not include your personal opinions. On the bottom half of panel 2, write a one-paragraph review of the book. This paragraph should tell what you liked and disliked about the book. Remember, you **cannot** use what is already written in the covers of *The Wizard of Earthsea*. This must be original work.

AUTHOR'S NOTES/PANEL 1: On the top half of panel 1, glue a photo of yourself. Underneath your picture, write a two-paragraph biography about yourself. Include the following when writing your biography:

*important dates *future plans *activities
*interests/hobbies *family *place of residence

Also, list five songs that you think describe your personality the best and why.

SUMMARY/PANELS 5 AND 6: Beginning on panel 5 and continuing on panel 6, write a three-paragraph summary of the book that highlights the beginning, middle, and end of the novel. Each paragraph should be a minimum of six sentences. Add graphics if they will fit.



MAIN IDEAS/PANEL 7: On the top half of the panel, write a summary of the main ideas of the chapters in the novel. On the bottom half of the panel, choose songs that would make a great soundtrack for the novel. You must have at least five songs: main title, main character, two supporting characters, and end title. In your journals, you will give a brief description of each song and the reason why you chose the song for that character and title.

MAIN CHARACTER/PANEL 8: Use creative lettering to write the name of the main character. Use a thesaurus to find five adjectives that describe his personality. These adjectives should be words that you do not use in your everyday vocabulary. For example, do not use words like nice, happy, or pretty to describe the character.

PROBLEM-SOLUTION/PANEL 9: Choose three problems that occurred in the novel that you thought were the most significant. Draw a picture that illustrates each of them. Under each picture, write a complete sentence describing the problem. Then draw pictures of the solution(s) to each of the problems and write complete sentences describing them. The picture should be *creative, colorful, and carefully drawn*.

FAVORITE PART/PANEL 10: In a complete paragraph (minimum of 6 sentences), describe your favorite part of the book. Beneath your paragraph, draw a picture, which illustrates this portion. The picture should be *creative, colorful, and carefully drawn*.

