



## Literary Mandala for Jane Eyre

**Using a Mandala is a method of learning that encourages the use of creativity while analyzing the characters within a novel. It makes use of critical thinking skills.**

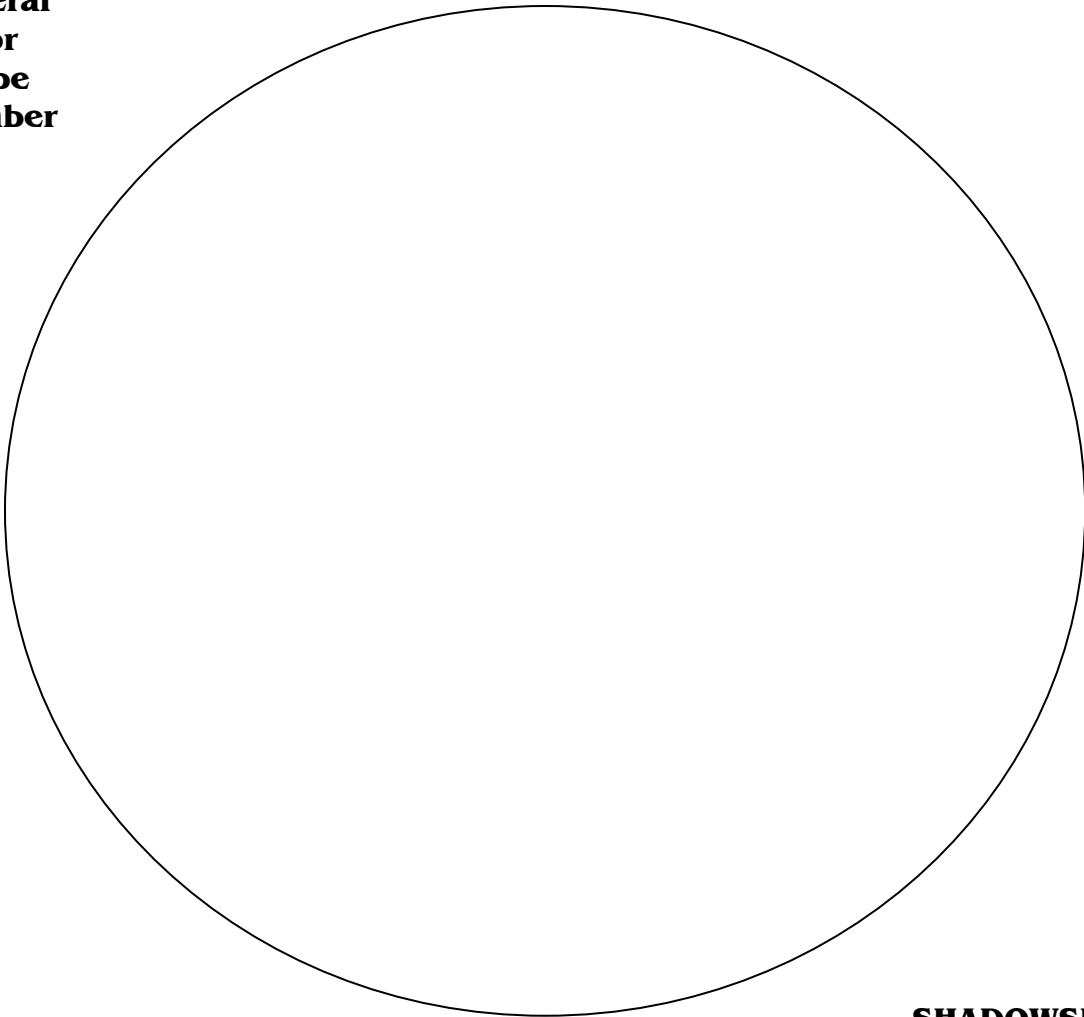
There are two sides to the Mandala: the Sunside and the Shadowside. If you take a snapshot of a person and divide the face into two equal parts vertically, one side of the face seems sad, the other happier—the dark and light sides of our personalities, perhaps. Each side of the Mandala can be used to represent aspects of a character’s nature. The interesting thing about using a Mandala is that readers will consciously decide on the Sunside features of a character, while the Shadowside (the opposites) are often only identified after looking at the Sunside.

### *Procedure:*

1. Pick a character from *Jane Eyre*. Some possibilities are Jane, Mr. Rochester, Blanche, Rev. St. John, Adele, etc. Get into groups according to character choice.
2. Write down 10 adjectives to describe the character.
3. Keep all of the adjectives in mind while choosing a symbol for each of the following to fit or represent the personality of the character:
  - a. animal
  - b. plant
  - c. color
  - d. mineral
  - e. shape
  - f. number
4. When all symbols are selected for the Sunside, write a paragraph defending your selection with proof from the text.
5. Go through your list and revise any symbol that cannot be defended.
6. For each symbol, pick an opposite. Your first reactions will usually be accurate. These opposites will comprise the Shadowside of your character.
7. Brainstorm in groups about how the opposites fit the character you have chosen and write a paragraph justifying these choices.
8. Draw and color the Mandala, preparing to present your analyses to the class orally.

**SUNSIDE**

**Animal  
Plant  
Mineral  
Color  
Shape  
Number**



**SHADOWSIDE**

**Animal  
Plant  
Mineral  
Color  
Shape  
Number**

**Example: Harry Potter**

**Brave, lucky, intelligent, sincere, unique, powerful, gifted, loyal, curious, pure**

**SUNSIDE**

**Animal--Owl**

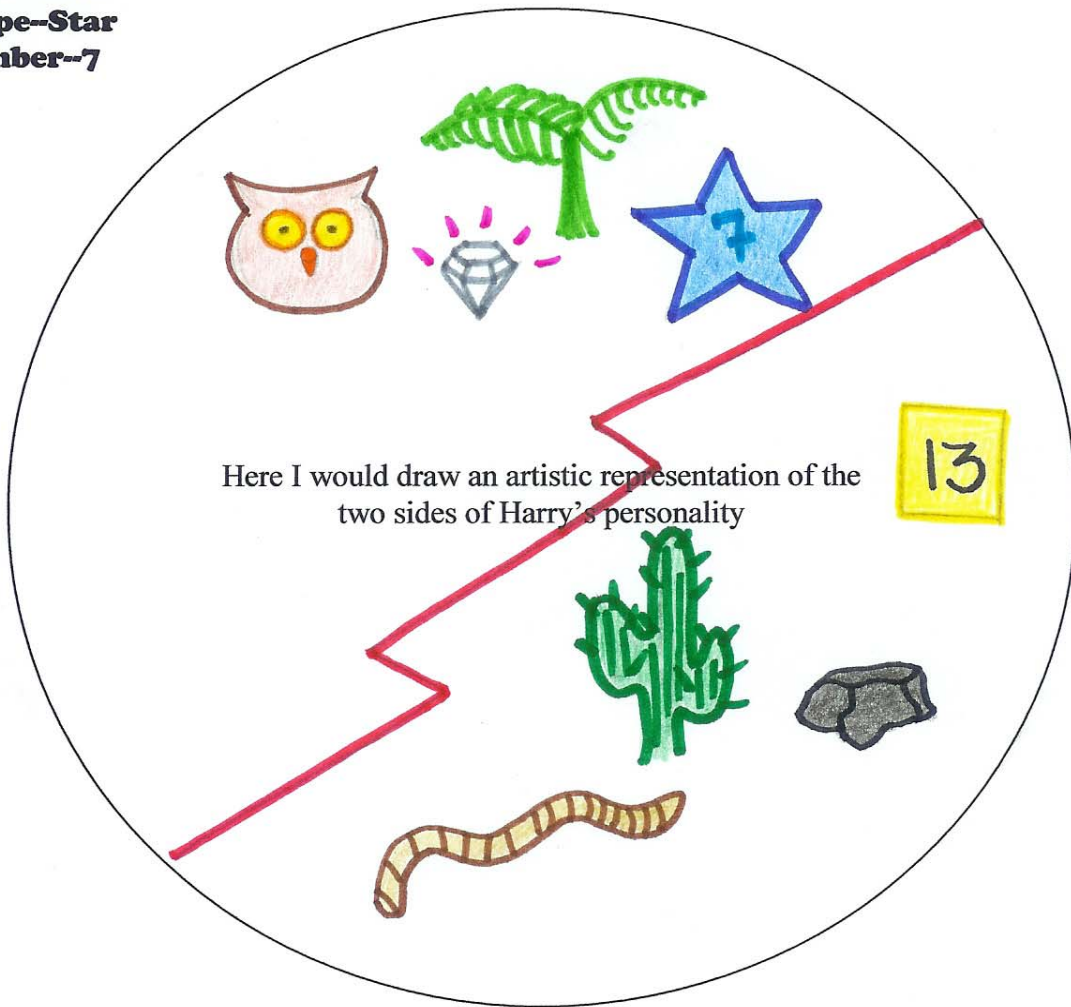
**Plant--Fern**

**Mineral--Diamond**

**Color--Blue**

**Shape--Star**

**Number--7**



Here I would draw an artistic representation of the two sides of Harry's personality

**SHADOWSIDE**

**Animal--Earthworm**

**Plant--Cactus**

**Mineral--Coal**

**Color--Yellow**

**Shape--Square**

**Number--13**