

## Robert B. Parker novels - Period 6 – 11 – 2 American Literature

### **Part I – Characterizations – to be done in class on Friday, May 10.**

Pick **SIX** main characters to describe. These characters must be central to the story. Each character should be identified by name, whatever history you may know (will vary by character), and relationship to the story (including any major actions). **ALSO** Who is your favorite character (does not have to be one of the six)? Why?

Example of a character description:

**Henry Cimoli** is the owner of the Harbor Health Club where Spenser and Hawk work out. Henry is an ex-welter weight professional boxer. The gym is where Spenser and Hawk used to work out as young boxers, but it has now gone up-scale with only one little room reserved for boxing for “old-times sake.” Henry is often the go-between getting messages from Spenser to Hawk. Henry is one of the few old friends of Spenser, and someone Spenser trusts.

### **Part II - Summary – take home work due on Sunday May 12 at midnight. You will need to turn this in on Turnitin.com.**

**Summarize** the novel that you have chosen. Summaries should include title and author, setting (where and when), main characters, conflict (what is the mystery? what needs to be solved?), rising action (clues towards the solving of the mystery), climax (moment the mystery is solved, often occurs violently) and resolution (what is going to happen to the characters now that the mystery is over.) This summary needs to be written in complete sentences with attention to grammar and spelling.

Summary Tips (ALL OF THESE QUESTIONS SHOULD BE ANSWERED OVER THE COURSE OF THE CHAPTER SUMMARIES)

1. What's the title of the book? Who wrote it?
2. Where is the story set? (may be more than one place or time)
3. Who do you first meet in the story, and what are they doing?
4. What is the PI hired to do, or what are the cops trying to solve? Who is involved?
5. What facts are discovered by the PI/cop? How does the investigation proceed? Who is involved?
6. How is the case “broken?” This is usually a violent moment – describe it. What is the solution to the mystery?
7. What happens to everybody after the solution is made known?

**Part III – Style of film noir/hard boiled detective. Answer the following questions in complete sentences. To be done in class on Monday May 13.** Give two specific and clear examples from your book of Spenser or Sunny defying or rebelling against authority.

1. Give two specific examples from your book of Spenser, Sunny or Jesse cracking wise (being a smart ass).
2. Every PI makes moral choices in their stories. What is one important moral choice made in your novel by the PI character? Why is the choice made and is it justified?
3. How does love play a part in your novel? Explain.
4. Describe the setting of the novel. Is the novel set in an “alienated, urban setting?” How do you know?
5. The novels often suggest a pervading sense of corruption throughout society, so much so that the work of the detective in pursuit of justice often seems futile. What is an example of this sense in your novel?