
Do you swear to tell the truth, the
whole truth, and nothing but the
truth?

Does anyone say no?

Nothing but the Truth

by Avi

Name _____

Pre-Reading Thinking

Consider the question on the top right of your packet – when asked “Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth? Does anyone say no?”

Do you think anyone says no? Explain.

What predictions can you make about the novel, based on this pair of questions? Explain why you made the predictions you did.

Now, read the Preface at the beginning of the novel. The author, Avi, says all schools have secrets. Do you agree? Explain.

Anticipatory Guide

Read the following statements. If you agree with the statement, write agree. If you disagree, write disagree. Go with your gut! If you do not know a word, a phrase, or what a statement means, highlight it – we will discuss as we go over your answers.

1. Teachers are always right.
2. Students have the right to disrespect teachers.
3. Sometimes teachers show they care by being “tougher” on students or by expecting more from them.
4. There is a difference between bending the truth and lying.
5. Your parents want you to be just like them.
6. Everything printed in the newspaper is true.
7. If you have a crush on someone, you should believe them when they tell you something.
8. Singing the national anthem is disrespectful.
9. You should follow all school rules.
10. When you're wrong, you should be able to say you're wrong and everyone should move on.

Each of these statements has to do with the novel. Based on the question on the cover of this packet, the title, the Preface, these ten statements, and the cover design and back summary, predict what this novel will be about. Write your prediction below.

Cast of Characters

Name Role in Novel/At School Personality/Character Traits

Dr. Joseph Palleni _____

Philip Maloy _____

Margaret Narwin _____

Bernard Lunser _____

Allison Doresett _____

Dr. Gertrude Doane _____

Dr. Albert Seymour _____

Coach Jamison _____

Susan (Mrs.) Malloy _____

Benjamin (Mr.) Malloy _____

Ted Griffen _____

Jennifer Stewart _____

Jake Barlow _____

Nothing but the Truth

Chapters 1, 2, and 3 (1-11)

Paraphrase the events in these chapters. Include who was present, the main action, and any information relevant to understanding the central idea/theme.

Respond to the journal prompts in complete sentences. When possible, cite examples and quotations from the novel to support your ideas.

Philip Malloy is excited that Coach Jamison wants him to try out for the track team, and Philip knows his dad will be excited, too. Can you think of a time you felt like Philip? If so, tell me about it. If not, explain why he is so excited.

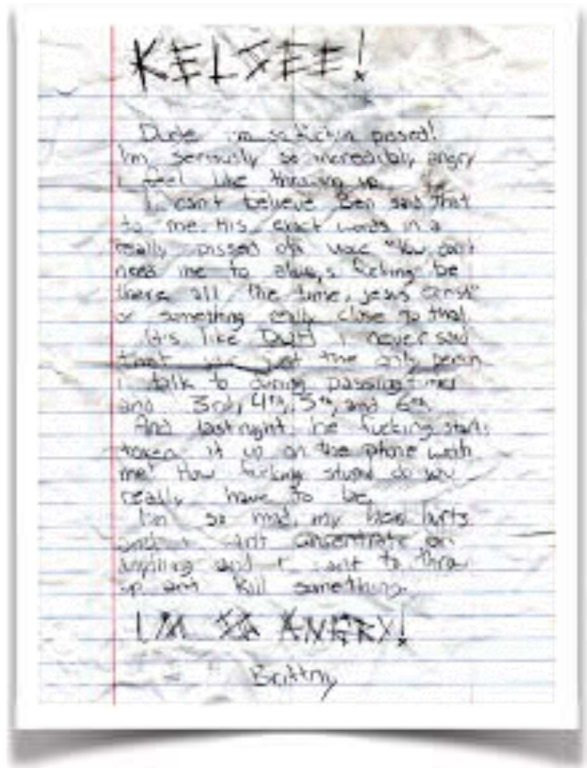
The format of this novel is not usual. What is your reaction to the format the author used?

In Chapter 1, a memo gives specific directions for what students should do while the national anthem plays. Give some of those instructions below.

Foreshadow who is going to have a conflict (or disagreement) in this story. Explain why you think the way you do.

When one character is a complete opposite of another, we call them foils. Explain why Miss Narwin and Mr. Lunser are foils.

Imagine you were Allison Doresett. Write a note to your friend describing the phone call she received from Philip from her point of view. What would she think of him, what he said, how he acted, etc. Try to write it as a freshman girl would.



Phillip's Playlist

Phillip enjoys track and field more than anything else, it seems. When people work out, they like music and sometimes create playlists with their favorite songs on them.

Include a creative title for your playlist (Not Phillip's Playlist).

Then, write 10 song titles (in quotations) with the 10 groups/performers associated with those songs. Under each song, write a sentence explaining why Philip would like this song.

Type this information into a new document. Be sure to include a proper heading. You may also include graphics, creative font choices, and color to personalize your work.

Record your ideas/Brainstorm below:



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Chapters 4, 5, and 6 (12-17)

Paraphrase the events in these chapters. Include who was present, the main action, and any information relevant to understanding the central idea/theme.

Respond to the journal prompts in complete sentences. When possible, cite examples and quotations from the novel to support your ideas.

Pretend you are a student in Miss Narwin's class. One evening, your mother says, "Philip Malloy's mother told me that Miss Narwin is the worst teacher in school. What do you think about her?" Answer her, and explain your thoughts with specifics from "class."

Philip will not be able to try out for track if he has a D in English. This is called eligibility. Do you think you should be passing your classes to participate in sports? Explain.

In Chapter 4, we see the essay question Miss Narwin gave, Philip's answer, and Miss Narwin's response.

Was Philip right or wrong to write what he did? Explain why you feel the way you do.

What do you think of Miss Narwin's response to him?

In Chapter 5, Miss Narwin requests to be sent for training. Why does she think she needs to improve her skills?

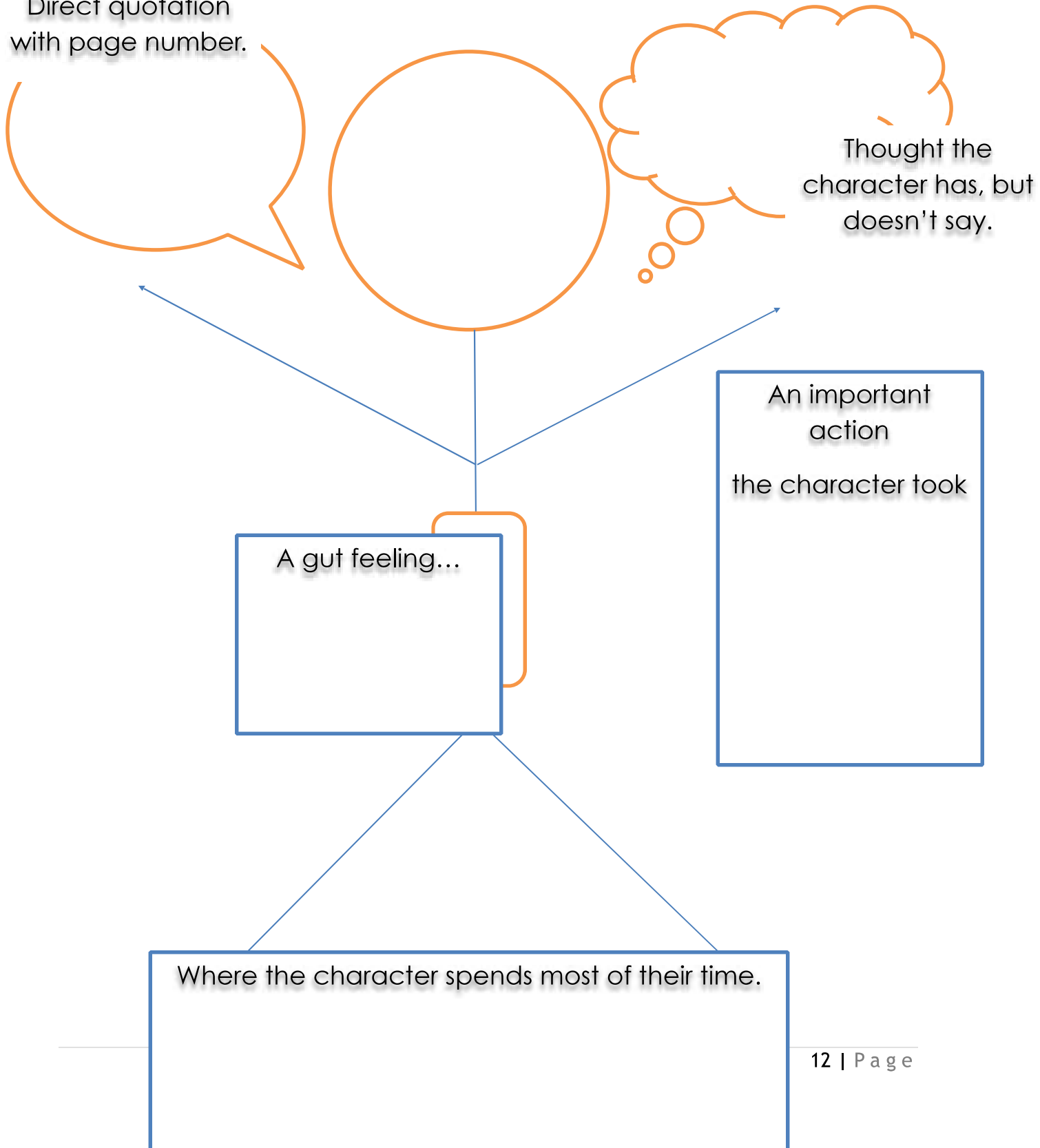
Paraphrase the memo in Chapter 6. Specifically, what is the problem Dr. Seymour is writing about, and what does he want staff to really understand?

How might that impact Miss Narwin's request?

Miss Narwin Character Sketch

Fill in the information below about Miss Narwin. Then, you'll take your ideas from the graphic organizer and write them into a paragraph, following the format on the next page.

Direct quotation
with page number.



Miss Narwin Character Study

Using the graphic organizer, the novel, and this prompt, write an analytical paragraph telling me about Miss Narwin.

Include:

- Attention getter/hook
- Thesis (character + trait they possess)
- Proof they possess this trait as demonstrated by their words, thoughts, gut feelings, actions, etc.
- Transitions throughout

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Chapters 7, 8, and 9 (18-32)

Paraphrase the events in these chapters. Include who was present, the main action, and any information relevant to understanding the central idea/theme.

Respond to the journal prompt in complete sentences. When possible, cite examples and quotations from the novel to support your ideas.

Mr. Malloy declares, "Kids only do what they want to do." Do you agree with this idea? How do you feel when adults or strangers make these types of assumptions or generalizations about teens? Are these stereotypes fair? Try to support your answer with examples from the book and your own experiences.

Did you have a reaction to the conversation between Philip and the track coach?
What could Philip have done differently? What could Coach Jamison done differently?

Mrs. Malloy tells her husband to leave Philip alone about track. She thinks that if she pushes him, he'll give up, but if she and her husband let him choose how to proceed, he'll make the right choice. Do you agree or disagree with this reasoning? Explain.

Philip tells his family one thing about track, but writes very differently about it in his diary. Describe the differences.

Explain why Philip acts one way to his parents and another way in private.

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Chapters 10, 11, and 12 (33-86)

Paraphrase the events in these chapters. Include who was present, the main action, and any information relevant to understanding the central idea/theme.

Respond to the journal prompts in complete sentences. When possible, cite examples and quotations from the novel to support your ideas.

When Philip tries to tell his parents about what happened with singing in Miss Narwin's class, it seems like his father has other things on his mind. Have you ever tried to talk to someone and he or she seemed distracted? Tell me about it and tell me how you felt. Tell me what you did as a result – did you try to retell them, or did you give up?

At this point in the novel, is your opinion of Mr. Malloy that he is a good father or a bad father? Explain.

Do you find it hypocritical that Mr. Malloy tells Philip to stand up for his rights, but Mr. Malloy told his wife he would not stand up to his own boss? Explain.

Miss Narwin confides in her sister that she is conflicted about Philip. What is her conflict about?

Why does Philip hum in Miss Narwin's class the second day, even though he knows she is opposed to this? _____

In these chapters, Miss Narwin writes her sister and says she is thankful her principal supports her. Philip writes in his diary that he is thankful his parents support him. We call this situational irony because both characters express feelings that will later be challenged. Predict how Miss Narwin's principal and Philip's parents might change their opinions in the novel.

When Philip hums a third time, he is sent to Dr. Palleni, the assistant principal. Palleni demands Philip apologize, but he will not. Is this smart? Explain.

Does Miss Narwin want Philip suspended? What does this tell you about her?

At the end of Chapter 12, Philip says he doesn't feel "so great." Explain why.

Who is your favorite character so far? Explain why.

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Chapters 13, 14, and 15 (87-139)

Paraphrase the events in these chapters. Include who was present, the main action, and any information relevant to understanding the central idea/theme.

Respond to the journal prompts in complete sentences. When possible, cite examples and quotations from the novel to support your ideas.

Sometimes, a news reporter will move his or her career forward by ruining someone else's life. Could that be the case here?

Most people agree Philip is a nice kid – even Miss Narwin says this. I don't think so, but maybe that's just me. What is your opinion?

The story Jennifer Stewart wrote was picked up by the Associated Press. The Associated Press (or AP) picks interesting and relevant news stories to sell to newspapers across the country. If you look in the local newspaper, you can find stories that begin with AP. The location of these stories is also noted. Also, Jake Barlow, a national talk radio host, decides to discuss this story nationally, taking the phone opinions of others. Why would the AP pick up this story? Why would Jake Barlow?

How would you feel if your school discipline issue was broadcasted across the United States?

Paraphrase Ted Griffin's speech on pages 135-136. He does discuss Philip, but what else does he mention? Why do you think he mentions this?

At the end of Chapter 15, Philip says, "I'm a little nervous." What might this foreshadow (predict what will happen next, based on this ominous statement).

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Chapters 16, 17, 18, and 19 (140-177)

Paraphrase the events in these chapters. Include who was present, the main action, and any information relevant to understanding the central idea/theme.

Respond to the journal prompts in complete sentences. When possible, cite examples and quotations from the novel to support your ideas.

The ending of this story could be considered depressing. Do you think it is depressing? Do you think it is a "good" ending?

Sequels are popular because readers really begin to enjoy the characters and want to learn more. Would Nothing but the Truth be the type of book that deserves a sequel? Explain.

When a character goes from immature to mature, we call that type of novel "Coming of Age" genre. Is this a coming of age novel? Explain.

If you had a chance to write Avi, what questions would you ask him? What comments would you make about the novel?

If you were going to write a novel for teenagers, what would you write about and why?

Does Allison support Philip? Explain.

The school district begins to change their story in these chapters. On the right, tell what they said first, on the left, tell what they say now. I've filled in some for you.

Original

Final

Singing the national anthem is prohibited.

Miss Narwin is "out of touch."

School district supports Miss Narwin.

Now, come up with your own discrepancy or different. Write them below.

Why does Dr. Doane encourage Miss Narwin to take the rest of the year off? Should she?

Philip doesn't want to attend school anymore. He tells his parents "The kids hate me!" Is this true? Why did the students/his friends opinions' change?

Mr. Duvall was going to write an article from Miss Narwin's perspective. It doesn't get published because _____

In the end, Miss Narwin will go to _____ and Philip will go to _____.

_____.

The final scene of the novel includes irony. The reader expects one thing to happen, but a different thing happens. What would you expect to happen when Philip is asked to sing the national anthem?

What really happens?

Picture Board

- Put the events below in chronological order
- Illustrate each event
 - color
 - detailed
 - variety of angles and shots (like graphic novel)
 - neat
 - no stick figures
- Write an original caption for each event
 - captions tell what is happening with the characters' names
- Write the novel's title, author, and your name on the top, front of your paper
 - write in large letters and fill the space along the top

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- Phil gets suspended
 - Phil is excited about track
 - Phil transfers schools
 - Phil wants to quit school
 - Miss Narwin leaves Harrison High
 - Phil acts out in Miss Narwin's class
 - Phil gets moved into Miss Narwin's homeroom class
 - The Malloys approach Ted Griffin
 - Phil and Miss Narwin both receive telegrams and letter
 - Phil receives a new homeroom and English teacher



Final Reflections

Read the following statements. If you agree with the statement, write agree. If you disagree, write disagree. Go with your gut! Then, check to see how your answers differ now that you've read this novel. Below, explain why your opinions changed or did not change.

1. Teachers are always right.
2. Students have the right to disrespect teachers.
3. Sometimes teachers show they care by being "tougher" on students or by expecting more from them.
4. There is a difference between bending the truth and lying.
5. Your parents want you to be just like them.
6. Everything printed in the newspaper is true.
7. If you have a crush on someone, you should believe them when they tell you something.
8. Singing the national anthem is disrespectful.
9. You should follow all school rules.
10. When you're wrong, you should be able to say you're wrong and everyone should move on.

Would you have preferred this novel was in a traditional form with a conventional narrator? Explain.

Reread what you wrote about Miss Narwin. Is your opinion the same or different? Explain with examples.

Nothing but the Truth Book Jacket Assignment

After reading *Nothing but the Truth*, certain images should stand out in your mind. The visualization you did while reading will come in handy for this project.

Your assignment is to create a new book jacket for *The Nothing but the Truth*.

It will contain the following parts:

- Front -- Cover Illustration, Title, Author
- Spine -- Title and Author
- Back -- Summary, Reviews, About the Author



You will be graded according to the rubric on the back of this sheet. You will do this on one sheet of paper, half being the front and the other half being the back. This may be done by hand, on the computer, or with a mixture of both.

CATEGORY	4	3	2	1
Front Cover	Includes an illustration, title of the book, and author's name. Font and colors fit the emotional content of the book. The graphic illustrates some scene from the book.	Includes an illustration, title of the book, and author's name.	Includes an illustration, title of the book, and author's name.	Does not include illustration, title, AND/OR author's name.
Back Cover	Includes two reviews of the book and student's name. Summary is concise and to the point without giving away the ending of the novel. Includes biographical information about the author.	Missing 1 component or work is not of the highest quality.	Missing 2 components or work is lacking quality.	Missing 3 components or all work is done poorly.

Spelling	There are 3 or fewer spelling errors on the book jacket. The author's name and the title are spelled correctly throughout!	There are 3 or fewer spelling errors on the book jacket, but the author's name is not always spelled correctly. The title is always spelled correctly.	There are 3 or fewer spelling errors on the book jacket, but the title and author's name are not always spelled correctly.	There are more than 3 spelling errors.
Grammar	There are no grammatical mistakes on the book jacket.	There is 1 grammatical mistake on the book jacket.	There are 2-3 grammatical mistakes on the book jacket.	There are more than 3 grammatical mistakes on the book jacket.
Neatness and Effort	The book jacket has no distracting errors, corrections or erasures and is easily read. It appears the student spent a lot of effort getting things just right.	The book jacket has almost no distracting errors, corrections or erasures and is easily read. It appears the student worked hard on it.	The book jacket is fairly readable but the quality is not too good on some parts. It looks like the student ran out of time or didn't take care of it.	Very messy and hard to read. It looks like the student threw it together at the last minute without much care.
Illustration(s)	Illustrations were creative, drawn and colored neatly and were a good size.	Illustrations were drawn and colored neatly and were a good size.	Illustrations were drawn and colored neatly, but some were too large or too small.	Illustrations were drawn and/or colored carelessly.
Use of Time	Class time was used wisely. It is clear the student worked at home as well as at school.	Class time was used wisely. Student could have put in more time and effort.	Class time was not always used wisely, but student did do some additional work outside of class.	Class time was not used wisely and the student put in no additional effort.

Did you enjoy this novel? You might like...

S.O.R. Losers by AVD (novel)

Strider by Beverly Cleary (novel)

The Chocolate War by Robert Cormier (novel)

"Eleven" by Sandra Cisneros (short story)

"Madam and the Rent Man" by Langston Hughes (poem)

"Miss Awful" by Arthur Cavanaugh (short story)

Let me Hear you Whisper by Paul Zindel (play)