Janet Allen, <u>Yellow Brick Roads</u>

The Novel Matrix
Great tool for any independent or class novel to be studied!

	Prediction	Summary	Key Events	Character Changes	Response	Foreshadowing
Day1						
Day2						
Etc…						

Stories contain basic elements. These elements can be combined into a structural framework. A novel can be used to go beyond basic story features to explore more complex subjects such as character changes, literary techniques, and much more. The four most important features of the novel matrix are a *"Prediction"* box, a *"Summary"* box, a *"Key Events"* box, and a *"Response"* box. Create the novel matrix on a large piece of paper hung on the wall.

Each novel you choose will contain unique features. These features can be taught and highlighted by simply adding them to the matrix:
- Character changes
- Clues
- Culture
- Historical Connections
- Literary Connections
- Personal Connections
- Stereotypes
- Symbolism
- Questions

You may choose to have one novel that is read by the whole class to act as a model first before you have students work on novels in cooperative groups. Remember that the matrix serves as a springboard for discussions and written responses to literature. As in everything you do, you want the children to take over the process themselves.

Integrated Learning Workshops: Launching a Love of Literature Teacher Training Manual
1992 The Wright Group

Ann Hopkins, 2005   www.literacyspecialists.com