

FLIP SIDE CHART

Someone once said that everything is a problem. If you win the lottery, you pay higher taxes and become saddled with long-lost relatives looking for gifts. If you drive a beautiful new car, you will pay higher insurance. Every positive has a negative. Everything has a flip side.

The Story	The Flip Side
The president declares that the major fighting in Iraq is over and the Iraqis have been liberated. Mortgage rates for homebuyers are at a thirty-year-low. You can buy a new camcorder with no payments and no interest for one year. The Mighty Ducks hockey team made it to the Stanley Cup finals for the first time in franchise history. The U.S. Congress passes the Patriot Act, enabling law enforcement to more effectively fight terrorism.	American soldiers continue to be ambushed. Anarchy reigns in the cities. Housing prices are at an all-time high. An interest rate of 19.6 percent is calculated from the beginning of the loan if you do not pay in full within the first twelve months. They lost the series in seven games to the New Jersey Devils. Some innocent people are held indefinitely against their will.

Unfortunately, many students read at face value only. Teaching them to consider the flip side of what they read allows them to sharpen their ability to dig under the surface of text.

POSITIVE-NEGATIVE CHART

A positive-negative chart is an excellent way to have students track specific literary elements in a novel or play.

Positive versus negative behavior by the character. Is the character's behavior positive or negative? How positive or negative is it? How does it compare to his other behaviors?

Positive or negative influence other characters have on the main characters. How much influence does each character have? Who has the most positive influence? Rank the degree of positive or negative influence the following characters have on _____.

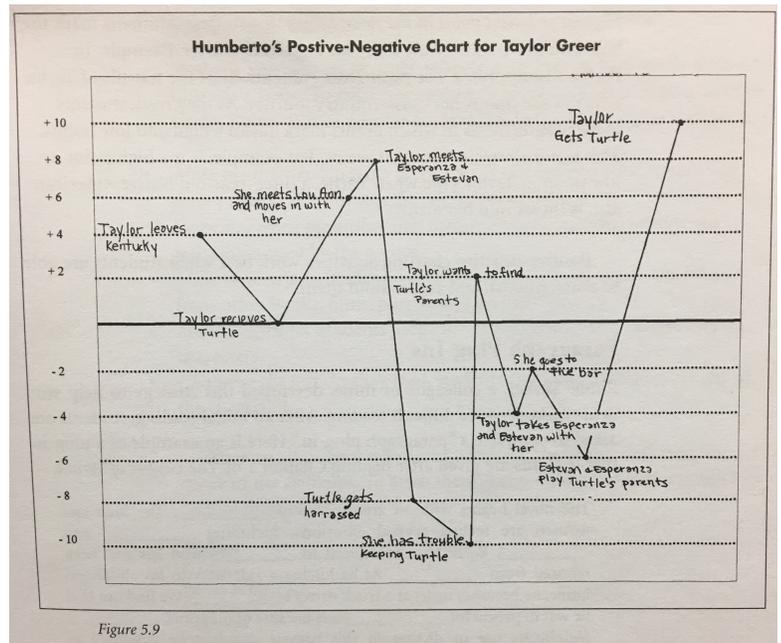


Figure 5.9

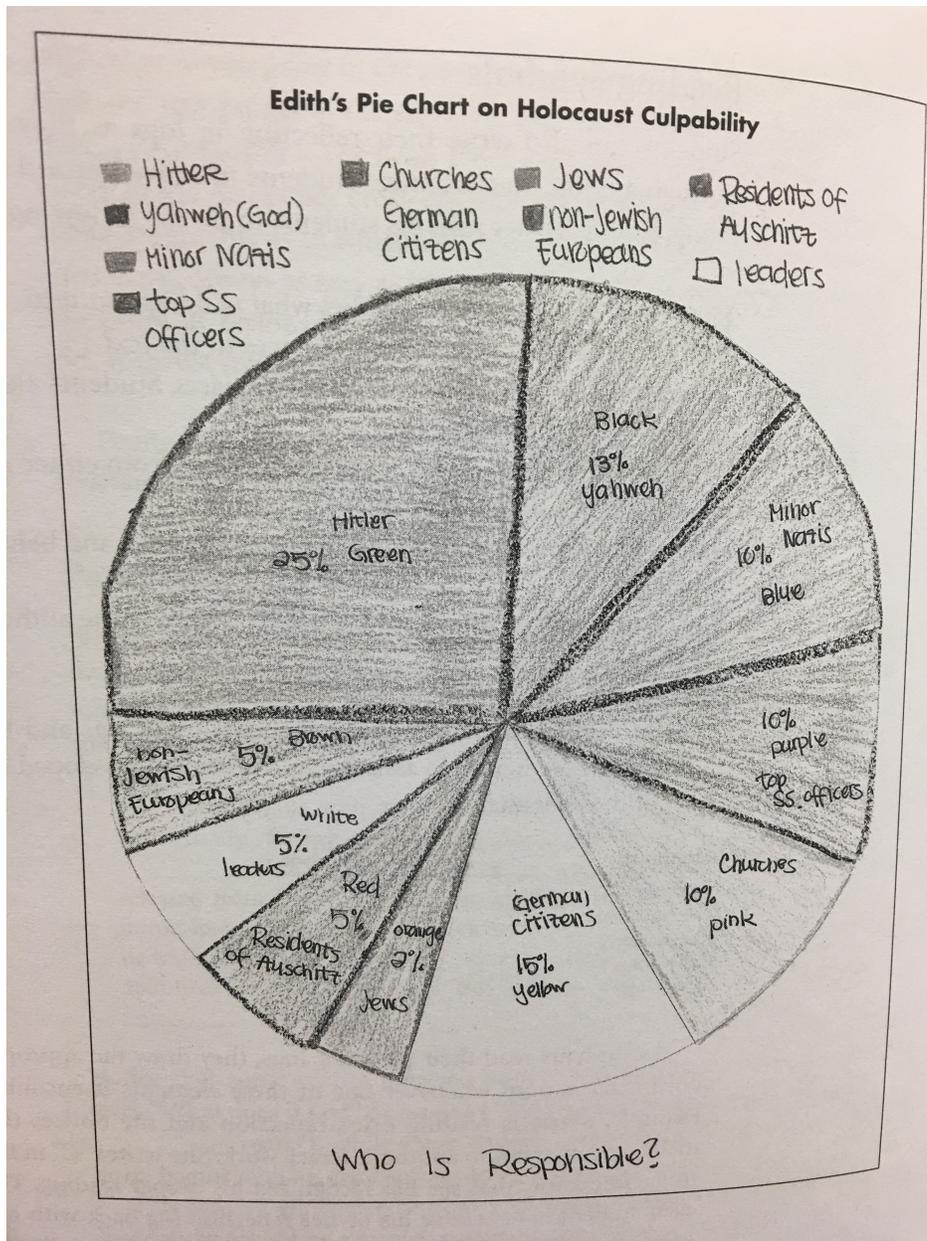
Highest or lowest point in the story. Using this strategy, students mark the high and low points of the story for a given character.

These charts work best when students are able to share, discuss, and argue about them.

DEEPENING COMPREHENSION THROUGH SECOND-DRAFT READING

RESPONSIBILITY PIE CHARTS

Another way to help prompt deeper thinking is to ask students to consider which characters or people are most responsible for the book's outcome.



At the end of the unit on *Night*, a nonfictional account of the Holocaust, students brainstormed the various people and groups who played a role in the genocide of World War II.

While it's easy to blame Hitler, students need to realize that he needed a lot of help to murder millions of people. As a class, brainstorm all the people and groups who played a role in the Holocaust.

Responsibility pie charts can work with any book that carries a strong ending: Who shared responsibility for the deaths of *Romeo & Juliet*? For the fall of *Hamlet*? For the demise of *Piggy*? Who was most to blame? Who was indirectly responsible? Having students consider these questions prompts them to revisit the text and to consider the

consequences of the actions (or inaction) of others.

These activities demonstrate to students the value of revisiting text. Deeper meaning emerges when difficult text is reread, and these strategies, through repeated modeling, help to break students from their “I read it one time and I don’t get it” mentality.