

“Novel” Notes

Science has proven that different people organize their thoughts in different ways. While one student may find success in traditional note-taking methods, another may find it easier to use the Cornell Notes system. There are still others, however, that prefer to take notes in a more “graphic” way, hence, the “novel” note-taking system. This type of system still uses words, but combines those words with symbols in a non-linear fashion (meaning they can go all over the page). In the “novel” notes system, the following four shapes are used:

Oval equals page number or chapter title

Square equals character name

Circle equals event taking place

Triangle equals emotions being conveyed

In the novel notes system, a page, or even a chapter, can be summarized by connecting a series of the preceding shapes together. Inside the shapes, a word or two can be written to indicate exactly what is happening, who it is happening to, and how they feel about it. Examine and analyze the following novel notes set from chapter one of *Whirligig* by Paul Fleischman: