Purpose of the Strategy: By completing this activity, students should become more familiar with important words from the novel. Also, the magic squares activity adds a twist to an otherwise laborious vocabulary exercise.

Context: This activity would be best completed just before reading chapters three and four, as the words are taken exclusively from that portion of the book. It would primarily function as a pre-reading activity to prepare students for possible stumbling blocks when they do begin the reading.

Directions: The object of this assignment is to familiarize yourself with these vocabulary words from Chapters 3 & 4. The first column (with the letters) is comprised entirely of the terms. The second and third columns (with the numbers) contain the definitions for those terms. You are to place the number of the definition with the corresponding letter of the term in the chart at the bottom. If you are correct, the definition numbers in each column and row should add up to the very same number. This is the “magic” number. Don’t forget to fill it in the blank.

Assessment: This assignment should be weighted fairly heavily because it will require some time on the students’ part. Like with any kind of matching activity, if they get one off, it can throw the entire puzzle off. Even though they should be familiar with some of the words already (which may vary depending on their background and experiences), some are particularly foreign to our modern speech. These will require more searching, time, and work. But, the really important assessment is if they understand the words at the end. To assess this, I recommend checking for understanding by doing oral questioning of random students to make sure they know the meanings without relying on their answer sheets (perhaps by having the students turn over their papers and then spot checking).