

Some tasks on the novel

1. List all the characters in the novel and find descriptions of them all. Compare and contrast the ways in which the characters are presented.
2. Why is the novel separated into four parts?
3. Look at how many characters appear in each part of the novel and explore what might be the reasons behind the number of characters in each part.
4. Write down a list of characters who are anonymous; why do you think this has been done? What difference does it make to our view of these characters?
5. Why is one of the scenes between Chenier and Baldini written as a playscript?
6. Look at what happens to people after they have been in contact with Grenouille. Think about the significance of the majority of them dying, either by his hand or by some coincidental accident that befalls them.
7. Find quotations in which Grenouille is compared to an animal, who gives us this information and consider their importance.
8. Find and make notes on the scenes in which Grenouille first smells the scent of his first, anonymous, murder victim and Laure Richis. What comparisons can you draw between the descriptions?
9. The book has many sexual scenes. Discuss the erotic nature of the book and its significance to the story and our understanding of the novel.
10. Compare and contrast the opening and closing scenes of the novel.