

Marc Spicer's Saviors Among Us 1.0

SITUATION CRITICAL

STUDY GUIDE



Student Name: _____

Teacher Name: _____

If found, please return to the teacher named above.

Chapter 1

adjacent
(adj.) next to or adjoining something else

compelling
(adj.) evoking interest and attention, or admiration in a powerfully irresistible way

squelched
(v) silenced

torrential
(adj.) falling rapidly and in large quantities

savior
(n) a person who saves someone or something (especially a country or cause) from danger, and who is regarded with the veneration of a religious figure

labyrinth
(n) a complicated irregular network of passages or paths in which it is difficult to find one's way; a maze

wane
(v) decrease in vigor, power, or extent; become weaker

maître d'
(n) the person in a restaurant who oversees the waitpersons and busboys, and who typically handles reservations

moonlighting
(v) having a second job in addition to one's regular employment

blanch
(v) grow pale from shock, fear, or a similar emotion

1. How does the setting of a college university help to establish one of the themes of the novel?

2. Approximately how old is Edwards?

3. Based on the information and answers you used in question number two, at what age did The Patriot start training new super adventurers? At what age did he start his superhero career?

4. On what was the F.I.S.T. of Freedom’s name based?

5. If The Patriot does not believe in ghosts, then why does he sneak into the girls’ dormitory?

6. How was The Patriot able to follow the Wellington Ghost into Kamden Hall?

You are an investigative newspaper reporter for *The Massena Dispatch*. Your editor has instructed you to investigate and write an attention-grabbing front page article based on the events that occurred moments ago at Massena University. Be sure to use **strong and thorough textual evidence**!

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Chapter 2

sanitize (v)	make clean and hygienic
------------------------	-------------------------

lucrative (adj.)	producing a great deal of profit
----------------------------	----------------------------------

specter (n)	a ghost
-----------------------	---------

protocol (n)	the official procedure or system of rules
------------------------	---

redundant (adj.)	(of a component) not strictly necessary to functioning but included in case of failure in another component
----------------------------	---

melee (n)	a confused mass of people
---------------------	---------------------------

maelstrom (n)	a situation or state of confused movement or violent turmoil
-------------------------	--

1. Explain how the **imagery** on pages 13 through 15 symbolizes Dr. Bilsby.

2. What does the term "sanitized purity" mean?

3. How does the pacing of the action in the story change during the chapter? Why do you think the author changed the pacing?

Chapter 3

produce (n)	things that have been produced or grown, especially by farming
-----------------------	--

nausea (n)	a feeling of sickness with an inclination to vomit
----------------------	--

distorted (v)	pulled or twisted out of shape; contorted
-------------------------	---

garbled (v.)	reproduced (a message, sound, or transmission) in a confused and distorted way
------------------------	--

sprawled (v)	sit, lie, or fall with one's arms and legs spread out in an ungainly or awkward way
------------------------	---

chaos (n)	complete disorder and confusion
---------------------	---------------------------------

venue (v)	the place where something happens, especially an organized event such as a concert, conference, or sports event
---------------------	---

Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics (G.U.M.): Why is the word *Italian* capitalized?

1. What **mood** is established on pages 18 and 20?

2. How does the author establish that mood?

3. How did the residents exhibit pride?

4. **Quick Internet Research:** Which movie was Sandy going to show Edwards?

5. Why did Edwards sound disappointed?

6. Why did The Patriot instruct Sandy to return to her apartment?

7. Why did Sandy follow Edward's instructions without saying a word?

8. How does the description of the restaurant resemble a previous setting?

9. Where is the foreshadowing at the beginning of chapter 3?

10. Why did Edwards stress the words **business** and **lunches**?

11. How is the name "The Ghost" appropriate for Sandy?

12. What led Sandy to believe Edwards cares about her?

13. Does Edwards care about Sandy?

14. What **tone** is evident in the newspaper article? How was that **tone** established?

15. What did Sandy mean when she told Edwards, “You need to find your style?”

16. Why does Sandy suggest they should have dinner together and then go dancing?

Chapter 4

conifers (n)	trees that bear cones and evergreen needlelike or scale-like leaves (such as pine, fir, and spruce)
------------------------	---

agitated (adj.)	having been moved or forced into violent, irregular action
---------------------------	--

remnants (n)	small remaining parts or quantities of something
------------------------	--

subterranean (adj.)	existing, occurring, or done under the earth's surface; secret; concealed
-------------------------------	---

cascading (adj.)	having a series of stages in the processing chain of an electrical signal where each operates the next in turn
----------------------------	--

ramifications (n)	consequences of an action or event, especially when complex or unwelcome
-----------------------------	--

vested (adj.)	established, secured, settled
-------------------------	-------------------------------

waxing moon (n)	the moon at any time after new moon and before full moon, so called because its illuminated area is increasing
---------------------------	--

stature (n)	a person's natural height
-----------------------	---------------------------

countenance (n)	a person's face or facial expression
---------------------------	--------------------------------------

prospect (n)	the possibility or likelihood of some future event occurring
------------------------	--

plume (n)	something (such as smoke, steam, or water) that rises into the air in a tall, thin shape
---------------------	--

paradigm (n)	a framework containing the basic assumptions; ways of thinking,\
------------------------	--

ascend (v)	rise
----------------------	------

1. At the beginning of chapter 4, Edwards falls in the mud. Why does the author again put the **protagonist** in a position where he looks like a fool?

2. What literary technique is used when Sen. Walker said, “Graceful!”?

3. What does the use of this technique instantly tell us about these two characters?

4. Give an example of **imagery** from page 33.

5. Why did Edwards introduce himself the way he did to Dr. Ebbleston?

6. How does this chapter establish the book as **science fiction**?

7a. **Internet Research:** The name “Magmatar” was taken from the word “magnetar.” What is a magnetar?

7b. Why do you think the author chose to base the name for a Magmatar on this term?

7c. What do the changes to the term imply?

8. Whose swipe card did Edwards find?

9a. Why does the description of the destruction of the bathroom door seem familiar?

9b. Why did the author choose to make it seem familiar?

Chapter 5

tumultuous
(adj.) excited, confused, or disorderly

dispersion
(n) the action or process of distributing things or people over a wide area

premise
(n) an idea based on a previous theory

vigorously
(adv.) with energetic activity; energy; intensity

wry
(adj.) using or expressing dry, especially mocking, humor

squalor
(n) a state of being extremely dirty and unpleasant, especially as a result of poverty or neglect

blatant
(v) done openly and unashamedly; completely lacking in subtlety; very obvious

Science Connection: What happens when molecules disperse at a rapid rate?

1. Sandy described The Patriot as “Protector of the Truth and Defender of the Innocent.” Why do you think his ex-wife called him suicidal?

2. Why doesn't The Patriot want to train Sandy?

3. Edwards wondered how Sandy had come to know him so well. Was this the result of her telepathy, or was she paying a lot of attention to him?

Languages Other Than English (LOTE) Connection: What do the words “brouha” and “mauvais” mean?

4. What kind of mood does the author establish through the setting of Alex Roenbeck’s apartment as well as the building in which he lives?

5. If the instant coffee was so terrible, why did The Patriot drink it and silently encourage Sandy to do so as well?

Chapter 6

conception (n)	the forming or devising of a plan or idea
--------------------------	---

epiphany (n)	a moment of sudden revelation or insight
------------------------	--

socioeconomic (adj.)	relating to or concerned with the interaction of social and economic factors
--------------------------------	--

consignment (n)	agreement to pay a supplier of goods after the goods are sold (in the context of this novel, the goods on consignment have been pre-owned and used)
---------------------------	---

commerce (n)	the activity of buying and selling, especially on a large scale
------------------------	---

reverberate (v)	(of a loud noise) be repeated several times as an echo
---------------------------	--

promenade (v)	a paved public walk, typically one along a waterfront at a resort
-------------------------	---

1. Reread the first paragraph of chapter 6 on page 58. How did the author structure the description of the mall?

2. How does the **dialogue** on page 59 reinforce the novel's genre as science fiction?

3. Who is Knock-Out?

4. Why do you think The Patriot wore the same costume for nearly 20 years even though he had been repeatedly told it made him look like a referee?

5. What do the three stars mean at the bottom of page 60?

6. How does Earl feel about his job? How do you know?

7a. Whose fault is it that Edwards wound up with an undesirable hairstyle?

7b. How could have this fiasco been avoided?

8. Contrast the description of the underground parking garage and the outdoor café.

9. What do you think is the real cause of the change in The Patriot’s behavior?

Chapter 7

feral (adj.)	(especially of an animal) in a wild state, especially after escape from captivity or domestication; resembling a wild animal
engulfed (v)	(of a natural force) to have swept over (something) so as to surround or cover it completely
metabolism (n)	the chemical processes that occur within a living organism in order to maintain life
gnawed (v)	bit at or nibbled something persistently
sublimate (v)	(of a solid substance) change directly into vapor when heated
disdain (n)	the feeling that someone or something is unworthy of one's consideration or respect; contempt.
comportment (n)	behavior
impending (v)	be about to happen; (of something bad) loom
novice (n)	a person new to or inexperienced in a field or situation
loom (v)	to rise before an object or person with an appearance of great or portentous size
benevolence (n)	an act of kindness or an inclination to be kind. It's the quality of someone who volunteers in a soup kitchen, tutors children for free, and helps old ladies cross the street.
bombardment (n)	a continuous attack with bombs, shells, or other missiles
shrapnel (n)	fragments of a bomb, shell, or other object thrown out by an explosion
embedded (v)	fixed (an object) firmly and deeply in a surrounding mass

visage (n)	a person's face, with reference to the form or proportions of the features; a person's facial expression
Doppler effect (n)	an increase (or decrease) in the frequency of sound as the source and observer move toward (or away from) each other. The effect causes the sudden change in pitch noticeable in a passing siren.
eddies (n)	(of water, air, or smoke) move in a circular way
opulent (adj.)	ostentatiously rich and luxurious or lavish
corpulent (adj.)	(of a person) fat

1. What literary technique is used in the following sentence? *"Flames danced over its skin."*

2. Based on the description of the molecular dispersion bomb in the beginning of chapter 5, what might have surprised The Patriot when it detonated?

3. The author used the word "gnawed" in an unusual way. What did he mean when he wrote, "...the cold gnawed at his feet"?

4. How does the author establish that Future-Shock is incredibly strong?

5. How do Future-Shock’s powers work?

6. **Science Connection:** Which parts of the first paragraph on page 75 are science fiction and which parts are science fact?

7. How did the author make the fictional technology seem somewhat real?

8. What is Future-Shock’s armor capable of doing?

9. Why do you think Pile-Driver took the time to examine Sandy and then look at The Patriot?

10. What does the term “*violently beautiful*” mean?

11. **G.U.M.** Combine the following sentences to form a compound sentence.

“Pardon the interruption, Mr. Mauvais. Pile-Driver is returning with the Magmatar.”

12. In a complete paragraph, use strong and thorough textual evidence to answer the following question.
What is the true reason Edwards has not pursued a relationship with Sandy?

13. When used, flashbacks play an important role in a story. What is the flashback in chapter 7?

Unit Project

Use the descriptions in the text to create an accurate piece of art which looks like **The Patriot, Future-Shock, or Pile-Driver**. You may use any medium you wish. You may use a different sheet of paper, a canvas, or other base for your work.

Submit your work on
www.SaviorsAmongUs.com
and it will be featured on
a special page in the *Saviors Among Us* Web Site.

Be sure you have your parent's permission. By submitting your artwork, you are giving the author, Marcus E. Spicer, permission to use it for promotional and business purposes.

Chapter 8

feign (v)	pretend to be affected by (a feeling, state, or injury)
---------------------	---

oblivious (adj.)	not aware of or not concerned about what is happening around one
----------------------------	--

validate (v)	check or prove the validity or accuracy of (something); demonstrate or support the truth or value of
------------------------	--

sarcasm (n)	the use of irony to mock or convey the feeling that a person or a thing is beneath consideration, worthless, or deserving scorn
-----------------------	---

discretion (n)	the quality of behaving or speaking in such a way as to avoid causing offense or revealing private information; the freedom to decide what should be done in a particular situation
--------------------------	---

memorabilia (n)	objects kept or collected because of their historical interest, especially those associated with memorable people or events
---------------------------	---

undulate (v)	move with a smooth wavelike motion
------------------------	------------------------------------

1. What is the “talk” that was long overdue?

2. What did Sandy communicate to Edwards by placing her hand under his chin and making eye contact?

3. What message had she received from him at that moment?

4. What are the reasons Edwards hid his true feelings for Sandy?

5. What new superpower did Future-Shock demonstrate in Sandy’s apartment?

6. What do you think The Patriot was thinking while he watched the press conference on TV?
Support your answer with **strong and thorough textual evidence**.

7. What can the reader infer from the way Future-Shock studied the collection?

8. Why did Edwards “hide” by burying himself in work?

9. What new superpower did Future-Shock reveal in The Patriot’s office?

10a. Why does the author use the names *The Patriot* and *Edwards* interchangeably?

10b. At what points in the chapter did the author refer to him as *The Patriot* as opposed to *Edwards*?

Chapter 9

remnants (n)	a small remaining quantity of something
------------------------	---

interface (v)	interact with (another system, person, organization, etc.)
-------------------------	--

ponder (v)	think about (something) carefully, especially before making a decision or reaching a conclusion
----------------------	---

schematic (n)	a simplified diagram or other representation of something
-------------------------	---

terminal (n)	a point of connection
------------------------	-----------------------

cache (n)	a collection of items of the same type (such as computer files or data) stored in a hidden or inaccessible place
---------------------	--

decimated (adj.)	severely damaged or completely destroyed
----------------------------	--

fortified (adj.)	strengthened (a place) to protect
----------------------------	-----------------------------------

tendrils (n)	a slender threadlike appendage
------------------------	--------------------------------

rasp (n)	to speak in a way that sounds rough or harsh
--------------------	--

cadaver (n)	a corpse
-----------------------	----------

horde (n)	a large group, multitude, number
---------------------	----------------------------------

oppressiveness (n)	the state of causing discomfort by being excessive, intense, elaborate
------------------------------	--

reintegrate (v)	restore to a position as a part fitting easily into a larger whole
---------------------------	--

devoid (adj.)	entirely lacking or free from
-------------------------	-------------------------------

stolid (adj.)	(of a person) calm, dependable, and showing little emotion or animation
-------------------------	---

1. In the first sentence of chapter 9, the author uses an ellipses to show a pause in the Patriot's dialogue. What other pieces of punctuation are used to show a pause in writing? Rank them in order from the shortest pause to the longest pause.

2. Why did Sandy and Future-Shock pretend this was the first time they scanned the crater?

3. What is familiar about the room in which Future-Shock discovered the computer terminal?

4. Future-Shock said that without his armor, he is “*300 pounds of pure flab.*” Setting aside the health benefits of being in shape, how might the life of an obese person be different from the life of a person who is in excellent physical condition?

5. How did the author adjust the pace of the novel after Future-Shock and The Patriot split up?

Chapter 10

reconnaissance (n)	observation of a region to locate an enemy or ascertain strategic features
mulled (v)	thought about (a fact, proposal, or request) deeply and at length
furtive (adj.)	attempting to avoid notice or attention, typically because of guilt or a belief that discovery would lead to trouble; secretive
synthesize (v)	combine (a number of things) into a coherent whole
dormant (adj.)	(of an animal) having normal physical functions suspended or slowed down for a period of time; in or as if in a deep sleep
nullify (v)	make of no use or value; cancel out
rank (adj.)	offensive in odor or flavor; rancid
dilapidated (adj.)	in a state of disrepair or ruin as a result of age or neglect
apocalypse (n)	the complete final destruction of the world; an event involving destruction or damage on an awesome or catastrophic scale
prosper (n)	flourish; grow strong and healthy
bergamot (adv.)	an oily substance extracted from the rind of the fruit of a dwarf variety of the Seville orange tree. It is used in cosmetics and as flavoring in tea.

1. Why did Future-Shock start to *thicken* in the abdomen?

2. **Science Connection:** Is *Cylindrically Reinforced Graphite Polymer* science fiction or science fact?

3. Why are the words *“if you run out of power”* repeated and printed in italics?

4. Why would Future-Shock be scared of being disconnected from his armor?

5. To where did The Patriot think his computer data was transmitted?

6. How were Sandy and Edwards able to convince Future-Shock to continue working with them despite his fears?

7. Who was the greasy, fat man laying on the floor, grabbing his bloody nose?

8. Why was he on the floor?

9. What is Mauvais' plan for The Patriot?

10. What idea did the author communicate by using the word “again” in the second sentence of the second paragraph on page 116?

Chapter 11

impulse (n)	a sudden strong and unreflective urge or desire to act
-----------------------	--

catastrophic (adj.)	involving or causing sudden great damage or suffering
-------------------------------	---

reluctance (n)	unwillingness or disinclination to do something
--------------------------	---

queried (v)	ask a question about something, especially in order to express one's doubts about it or to check its validity or accuracy
-----------------------	---

imminent (adj.)	about to happen
---------------------------	-----------------

stealthily (adv.)	quietly and cautiously
-----------------------------	------------------------

breach (v)	make a gap in and break through (a wall, barrier, or defense)
----------------------	---

divulged (v)	to have made known (private or sensitive information)
------------------------	---

mercenary (n)	a professional soldier hired to serve an army, sometimes at the expense of ethics
-------------------------	---

amass (v)	gather together or accumulate (a large amount or number of valuable material or things) over a period of time
---------------------	---

protégé (n)	a person who is guided and supported by an older and more experienced or influential person
-----------------------	---

stolid (adj.)	(of a person) calm, dependable, and showing little emotion or animation
-------------------------	---

1. Why does some of the dialogue in the beginning of this chapter and the end of the last chapter appear in **bold** and *italicized* font?

2. Later in chapter 11, the author uses a larger and different bold font. What purpose does the change in font serve?

3. Explain what Roenbeck meant when he said, "It seems we are about to have a lot in common."

4. Why did the author includes several blank pages and a few with only a small amount of words? What is the author communicating to the reader?

Chapter 12

sanctuary
(n) a place of refuge or safety

obscuring
(v) keeping from being seen; concealing

quizzical
(adj.) (of a person's expression or behavior) indicating mild or amused puzzlement

forthright
(adv.) (of a person or their manner or speech) direct and outspoken; straightforward and honest

presumptuous
(adj.) (of a person or their behavior) failing to observe the limits of what is permitted or appropriate

translucent
(adj.) (of a substance) allowing light, but not detailed images, to pass through; semitransparent

perennials
(v) (of plants) having a life cycle lasting more than two years

sans
(prep.) without

imperceptible
(adj.) impossible to perceive

insentient
(adj.) incapable of feeling or understanding things; inanimate

symmetrical
(adj.) made up of exactly similar parts facing each other or around an axis

initialize
(v) to put in the condition appropriate to the start of an operation

bewilderment
(n) a state of being confused and puzzled

pandemonium
(adj.) a wild and noisy disorder or confusion; uproar

1. **Science Research:** How much of the universe is made up of **matter**? How much is made up of **dark matter**?
How much of the universe is made up of **dark energy**?

2. Why is the entrance to the *Tech-Troxx Sanctuary for the Preservation of Humanity* decorated so nicely?

3. Why did Mauvais stand at the entrance with a big smile stretching across his face as he welcomed The Patriot and Ghost?

4. What is the difference between *can't* and *won't*?

5. Besides his plans to knock the Earth out of its orbit, what other details prove Mauvais is evil?

6. In this chapter, why did the author refer to the heroes as The Patriot, Ghost, Future-Shock, and Knock-Out rather than using their real names?

Chapter 13

depleted (v)	used up the supply or resources of
cinders (n)	a small piece of partly burned coal or wood that has stopped giving off flames but still has combustible matter in it

1. Why was The Patriot unsure if he would ever see a sunset again?

2. **Research:** How do the locks work on a waterway?

3. **Research:** How large are today’s largest supertankers? How large are the next generation of supertankers expected to be?

4. Why did the author keep using the image of a sunset? What relation does it have with the story?

Chapter 14

electromagnetic (adj.)	of or relating to the interrelation of electric currents or fields and magnetic fields
ventured (v)	dared to do something or go somewhere that may be dangerous or unpleasant
tormenting (v)	causing to experience severe mental or physical suffering

1. Why did the author start chapter 14 with the same paragraph he used on page 155?

2. Why did Knock-Out sigh after he had fought several guards?

3. What convinced Future-Shock to risk his life to stop the missiles?

4. **Research:** Why is it quiet in space?

5. At the end of the chapter, why did the writer shift attention away from the saviors?

Chapter 15

interjected (v)	say (something) abruptly, especially as an aside or interruption
---------------------------	--

acquaintance (n)	a person one knows slightly, but who is not a close friend
----------------------------	--

1. Why does the author shift between the protagonists’ savior names and their real names?

2. What emotions was Sandy experiencing when Edwards confronted Senator Walker?

3. How had Senator Walker prepared for the end of the meeting?

Epilogue

1. Why is there a blank page before the final paragraph?

2. Explain the final paragraph.

Name: _____

Date: _____

English: Characterization Chart (Page 1)

Period: _____

Character Study

Character	The character’s actions, thoughts, words.	What the actions, thoughts, and words tell the reader about the character.
Christopher Edwards also known as The Partiot		
Sandy Whitfield also known as The Ghost		
Future-Shock		

Name: _____

Date: _____

English: Characterization Chart (Page 2)

Period: _____

Character Study

Character	The character’s actions, thoughts, words.	What the actions, thoughts, and words tell the reader about the character.

Name: _____

Date: _____

English: Vocabulary Word Profusion

Period: _____

Word Profusion

Word Part: _____

Comes From: _____

Meaning: _____

1. Word: _____ Meaning: _____

Original Sentence: _____

2. Word: _____ Meaning: _____

Original Sentence: _____

3. Word: _____ Meaning: _____

Original Sentence: _____

4. Word: _____ Meaning: _____

Original Sentence: _____

Name: _____

Date: _____

English: Picture Vocabulary

Period: _____

Picture This!

Choose six vocabulary words. For each word, draw a picture that represents its meaning. Write the vocabulary word on the line above your drawing.

<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Name: _____

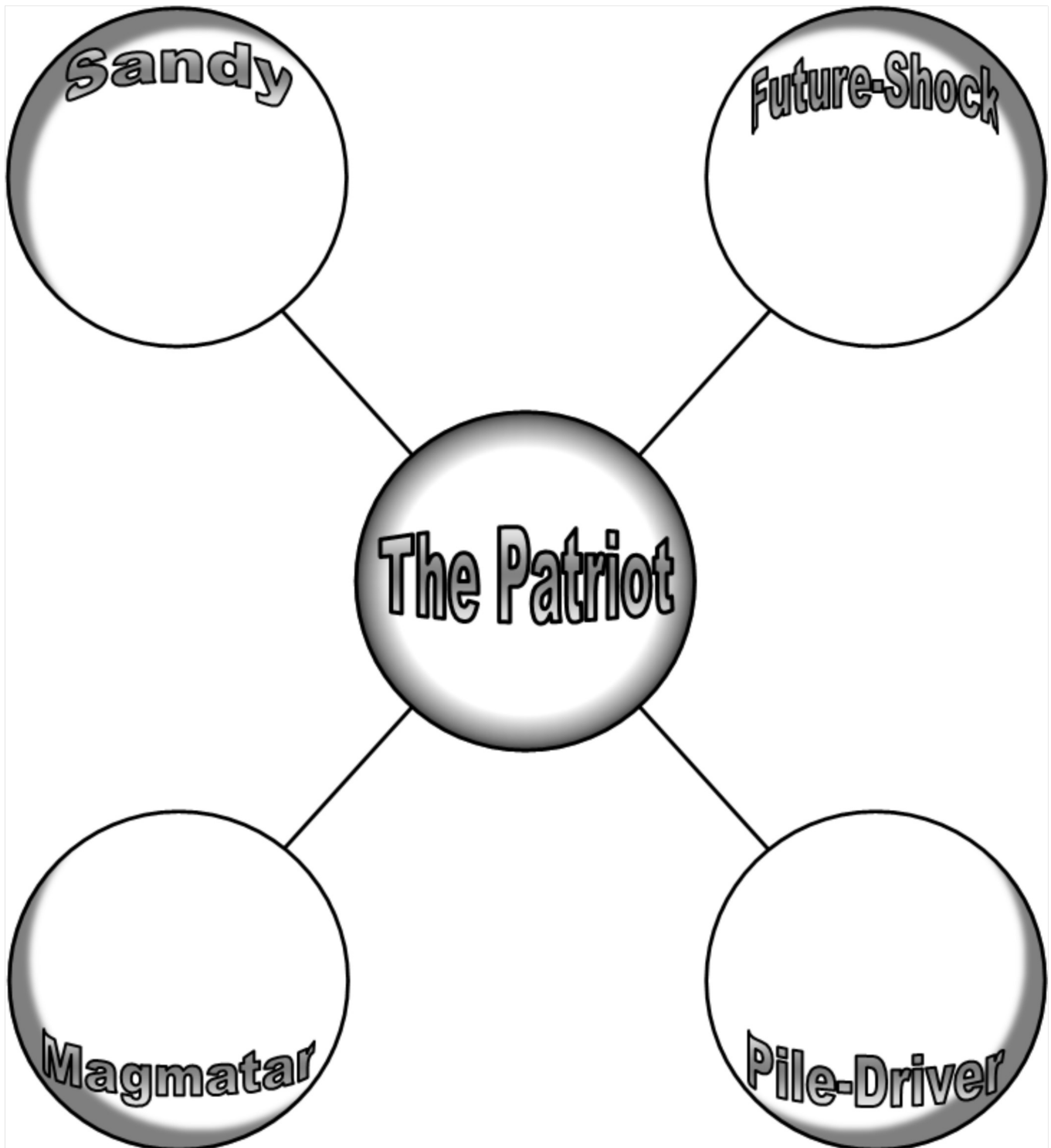
Date: _____

English: Character Study

Period: _____

Character Study

Sandy, Future-Shock, Pile-Driver, and the Magmatar each represent a different part of The Patriot - who he is as a person. In each bubble, explain how the character represents a



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