

Sociogram Assignment

What is a sociogram?

A sociogram is a visual representation of the relationships among characters in a literary text. Students can make use of pictures, symbols, shapes, colors, and line styles to illustrate these relationships.

What does it look like?

In a sociogram, the central character(s) is placed at the center of the page, and the other characters are placed around him/her. The placement of characters on the page should in some way represent each of the character's relationship with the main character, as well as with each other. Lines/arrows are used to show the "direction and nature" of the relationship (e.g. strength/weakness, friend/foe, dominance/submissiveness, etc.). A number of conventions may be useful in developing sociograms:

- Place the central character(s) at the center of the diagram
- Let the distance between the symbols representing the characters reflect how close of a relationship the characters have to one another. (Example: The Nurse would be closer to Juliet than her parents would be since she shares her real feelings with the Nurse)
- Let the size/shape/symbol of a character represent each personality, importance, one's power or lack of, etc.
- Show the direction of the relationship by an arrow/line and its nature by a brief label (the lines can be creatively applied: What might the following types of lines indicate? A jagged line? A wavy line? The thickness of the line? Etc.)
- Represent directly explained relationships with a solid line and inferred relationships (relationships that we figure out based on clues) by a broken line
- Place the characters that support the main character on one side of a dividing line, and antagonistic characters on the other side

You do not have to include all of these suggestions in your sociogram. These are just examples to help guide you. Be creative!

Directions

1. Draw a sociogram illustrating the relationships between Romeo, Juliet, and the rest of the characters at the end of the play.
2. Write an adjective that describe each character underneath their name. Example: Under Benvolio's name you could write (Peacekeeper).
3. Use page 807 in your textbook to help you spell characters' names correctly and identify relationships.

See an example for Cinderella on the back of this sheet ----->

Sociogram for Cinderella

