

2019 Summer Reading - SPEARERS

Every society has structures and systems that keep it both unified and moving forward. That’s what makes any society “civilized.” As you read your novel, look for quotes and descriptions of the society depicted in the novel that illustrate the eight most definable elements of any society. Describe that element and make note of quotes that support your description. This chart is not a grade, but rather designed to help you start understanding culture.

One thing to remember is these categories are not separate from one another. What this means is, an example from the book could be BOTH educational AND recreational, or establishing social hierarchy AND a person’s economic capabilities.

Element & Definition	What does it look like in your novel?	Quotes to support your ideas.
<p>Social hierarchy What kinds of social structures exist in that society? Who has the “power?” Consider gender roles, generational roles, or any other role that gives a person more or less ‘SOCIAL POWER.’</p>		
<p>Political Structure How is the government structured, either officially or informally? What is the basis for the rules and values of the society?</p>		
<p>Economic systems How are goods and services exchanged? Is there a barter system, or is actual money used? What does that money mean to the society, and on what is it based?</p>		

<p>Art Art is how we communicate our values and beliefs. It's how we reflect on our system of morals, and the "informal" dictates of society. What kind of art is represented in the society your novel is centered on?</p>		
<p>Religion/belief system All societies have a faith, or belief system. The lack of a belief in a higher power is its own belief system. What is that system in your novel, and what role does it play in the society that is depicted in that novel?</p>		
<p>Education How does the society depicted in your novel pass information and knowledge from one generation to the next?</p>		

<p>Recreation Everyone needs time to relax and “play.” Looking at a society’s structured play can tell us a lot about what they value and enjoy. How does the society depicted in your novel refresh themselves, socialize, and play?</p>		
<p>Science and technology What elements of the society depicted in your novel contribute to the society’s advancement and progress. Science is “the systematic study of the physical and natural,” and technology is “the application of scientific knowledge for practical purposes.”</p>		