Analysis Sheet – "Duel" by Richard Matheson   Name _____

(Matheson is known for writing some *Twilight Zone* episodes and sci-fi novels including *I Am Legend*)

Characterization in "Duel"

1. How does Matheson get the reader to relate on some level with Mann?

2. Bernhardt says that there's 5 things we must know about our protagonist. Check the following boxes through which we learn about Mann.
   a. Background ☐   d. Occupation ☐
   b. Personality ☐   e. His secret ☐
   c. Appearance ☐

3. What is the main thing that Mann wants?

4. Bernhardt says there are only 4 ways in which you may bring your character to life. Check which ones the author uses.
   a. Action ☐   d. Speech ☐
   b. Appearance ☐   e. Thought ☐

5. What is extraordinary about Mann (or, what is his superpower?)?

6. What's one way in which Mann and the truck driver are exact opposites?

<u>Plotting in "Duel"</u>

1. What's one way in which the author takes Mann out of his comfort zone?

2. AI says, "An inciting incident is the pivotal event in a story that disrupts the main character's life, introduces the central conflict, and sets the plot in motion. It's the catalyst that pushes the protagonist from their normal, stable state into the action of the story."
   Where is the inciting incident in this story?

3. How does the author make Mann's already slim chances slimmer?

4. Where's a moment in the story where the author integrates backstory into the action?

5. Bernhardt says "Let the conflict get increasingly worse, right up to the turning point that links act 2 to act 3. This turning point is often called 'The Crisis' or 'The Dark Moment.' (*Save The Cat!* calls it 'All is Lost.') Don't relieve the tension until the climax is over."
   Where is this story's turning point?

6. When does Mann experience an inner conflict?

7. When does Mann experience a personal conflict?

8. When does Mann experience an external conflict?

9. Which one of the following plots does the author use in "Duel"? Check the box and then, below, tell why you think so.

Education plot ☐   Testing plot ☐
Coming-of-Age plot ☐   Redemption plot ☐
Disillusionment plot ☐   Corruption plot ☐