**ELA A30**

**Ms. McLeod**

**Novel Study/Literary Analysis**

**Informal Collaborative Group Work**

**Book Club**

Books often leave us changed. When we read a book, we end up a slightly different person from the one who opened the first pages days before. Usually the change is subtle; we have gained some background knowledge, expanded our understanding of a time, a place, some events, a topic. Or perhaps as we enter the lives of fictional or historic people in a book, we end up understanding life a little better-how families work, or how people abuse power, or how to deal with loss.

After reading your book consider the following questions:

Has this book changed you in some way?

Where does this book take you next?

What do you want to find out or do as a result of having read this?

Do you have any lingering question?

Instructions:

1. Choose a book.
2. Form a group with other students that chose the same book as you. This will be your book club. Create a name for your book club.
3. Set a timeline for pages/chapters to be read in two weeks.
4. During the two-week period, your book club will meet to discuss what you have read:

At your 1st Meeting…

Silent written discussion: In your Writing Notebook share any thoughts you have about the book so far. Choose one or more of the following to discuss:

* + How did the author ‘hook’ you?
  + Make a prediction about what you think will happen next and why.
  + What is your impression of the character so far?
  + What do you think about what has happened so far?
  + Describe any challenges you encountered while reading?
* When completed your written response in your Writing Notebook, swap your writing with other group members. After reading your group members writings, discuss your book.

**Meeting #2**

Discuss the questions below with your group. Choose a recorder to jot down your answers and/or someone to illustrate the setting. Use the newspaper print provided. Be prepared to share your ideas with the rest of the class.

1. Being as specific as possible, state the time and place for this novel. Give support for your answer.
2. Is the choice of setting reasonable and appropriate for the events? Explain.
3. Are the events believable for the time period? Explain.
4. How would the story change if the time period were 50 years earlier or later?
5. What mood is created?

While the recorder is writing down your answers, have other group members do the following:

1. Are there any vocabulary words you do not understand? Have someone in your group look up the definitions.
2. Is there any background information that you need to research? Have someone in your group do the research.

**Meeting #3**

Silent written discussion: In your Writing Notebooks share your thoughts on the plot so far…

* + What is the initial incident that begins the conflict?
  + What type of conflict: internal, external or both?
  + Who is the protagonist? Antagonist?
  + Imagine the events in this novel were part of your own life. How would this make you feel? What would you do in response?

When completed your entry, swap your writing with other group members. After reading discuss your book.

**Meeting #4**

Discuss the following questions with the members of your Book Club:

1. How do the characters in your book show their personalities through dialogue?
2. How do the characters in your book show their personalities by the actions they take?
3. How do the characters in your book show their personalities by what other characters say or do toward this character?
4. Evaluate a decision by a character or characters. Do you feel a wise or poor decision had been made? Why? What decision would you have preferred to have been made and why?
5. How would this story be different if it were told by a different character?

Silent written discussion: In your Writing Notebook share your thoughts on one of the characters…

Imagine the events in one of the character’s lives. How would this make you feel if you were in his/her situation? What would you do in response?

OR

Are there any characters who remind you of people you know and how?

* When completed swap your answer with other group members.

**Meeting #5**

After you have finished reading your book, answer the following questions in your Writing Notebook:

1. What is the theme/s in the novel?
2. Comment on the writer’s craft: foreshadowing, flashback, dialect, imagery, symbolism? Cite examples from the novel.
3. What point of view is the novel told in? Cite an example from the book.
4. Where is the climax in the novel?
5. What do you think of the conclusion?
6. How does the author create a certain mood?
7. Who should not read this text? Who should?
8. What was the best part of your book? What was the worst part of your book?
9. What questions do you still have?
10. Has the book helped you in any way?
11. Were you surprised by anything in the book? What were you expecting instead?
12. How do you feel about the ending?
13. How does the title fit or not fit the text?
14. What is the author saying about life and living?
15. What do you know now that you didn’t know before?
16. The most important message in the book is…

Discuss your answers with the members of your club. Once your book club has completed the final discussion, hand in your Writing Notebooks.

Your literary analysis and discussion of your novel is complete! Well done!

**Ms. McLeod**

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**Book Club**

**Informal Group Discussions and Collaborative Work**

**Outcome: CC A 30.3-Present and express a range of ideas and information in formal and informal (including discussions and collaborative work) situations for differing audiences and purposes (Saskatchewan Curriculum).**

**Collaborative Book Talk**

**What is a Book Talk?**

A book talk is a way of presenting a book that you’ve read in an interesting and creative manner to your audience. You want to capture the attention of your audience and by the end, have them wanting to read your book! Costumes, props, acting as a character, talk shows or game shows are just some examples of how you can present your book. Don’t forget, lights, music, audience involvement and even technology can help entice your audience. Be Creative! Finally, don’t give the ending of the book away!

\*\* You may use your questions and discussions from your Book Club meetings to prepare your Book Talk.

Introduction: Find an interesting, exciting, or mysterious excerpt from the book to start off your Book Talk. This excerpt should grab the reader’s attention. You might want to choose an excerpt that shows something about the character/conflict/theme in the story. Also explain why you chose the excerpt. Clearly introduce your book by giving the name and author of the book.

**Middle:** The middle of the Book Talk will cover the setting, characters, and general plot of the book without giving away too much of the story. Tell a little about where the book is set, what kind of action or conflict is involved in the book, literary techniques used by the author and what it is about in general. Discuss the theme of the novel and give support to explain why that is the theme. Do not give away the ending of the novel.

**End**: Without giving away specific plot details, explain **why** you enjoyed this book, and try to convince the class to read it. Explain what type of reader might enjoy this book and explain why.

**Create a visual that represents your book.** You can choose from the following options or one of your own. Your project must be shown and explained in during your book talk:

* 1. Project image(s) on the smartboard
  2. Travel brochure to visit the setting of the story
  3. Diorama of an important scene in the book
  4. Bag containing 6-8 items that symbolize events or characters in the story
  5. Mobile representing a character or problems in the novel
  6. Trading cards (minimum of 5) of important characters in the novel
  7. Your choice – discuss it with me in advance