**Lit Circle Unit: Info**

A big component of our lit circle unit is you applying many of the skills we’ve learning this year to a choice book. So, this means you need to know the following really well:

1) The Signpost “Notice and Note” strategies

2) How characterization works: review notes from short story unit—what are the types of characterization, and how does characterization influence significant elements of the story?

3) Theme: Review the rules for theme. Review how symbol and motif contribute to understanding theme. Consider how a variety of literary elements contribute to how an author develops theme.

**Annotations:** You will need to annotate your book using the Notice and Note strategies that we’ve used before. You will be sharing these annotations with me and the people in your group.

Do you need a reminder of the Notice and Note strategies? Here you go!

**\*Contrast & Contradiction (remember, you noted—”Why would this character (setting) do/say this?”)**

What contrasts/contradictions (in character/story/etc.) are significant to our understanding of characters, themes, and conflict?

**\*Aha Moment: (remember, you noted—”How might this change things?”)**

What moments of realization are significant to our understanding of characters, theme, and conflict?

**\*Tough Questions (remember, this is when a character in the text actually asks the question; then, you noted—”What does this question make me wonder about (about the characters/conflict/issues in the book))?”**

**\*Again and Again (Motif): (remember, you noted—”Why does this happen again and again?”)**

What’s been repeated that’s significant to our understanding of characters, theme, and conflict?

**\*Memory Moment (remember, you noted—“Why might this memory be important?”)**

What flashbacks/memories are significant to our understanding of characters, theme, and conflict?

**\*Words of the Wiser (remember, you noted— “what’s the life lesson or words of advice, and how might this affect the character/story?)**

What moments of life lessons or words of advice are most significant to the development of characters, theme, and conflict?

**In-Class Paragraph Analyses:** You will write 2-3 analytical responses about characterization, theme, or other literary terms. These will be constructed in class.

**Graded Conferences:** Once per week (3 total times), each group will meet with Mr. D to have a discussion in class. Here are some of the topics to help you prepare—just like our other graded discussions, preparation will help you score better.

(questions on other side)

**Conference 1:**

1.       Tell me about these characters. Who are they, and what do you think of them? What types of characterization are you really noticing—what does the author like to use? What were 1-2 really strong moments of characterization, and how did the author accomplish this?

2.       Provide me with 2 or 3 places where you marked your text with a Notice & Note reading strategy. Explain how what you noticed might be significant to character development, conflict, or theme.

**Conference 2:**

1.       How is this book similar or different to ones we’ve read in class. How is it similar or different from books you read for pleasure?

2.       What’s been most interesting about this book so far? Try to be specific

3.       Provide me with 2 or 3 places where you marked your text with a Notice & Note reading strategy. Explain how what you noticed might be significant to character development, conflict, or theme.

**Conference 3:**

1.       What did you think of the ending? Now that you know the ending, how should we understand the messaging in the book? What is the book trying to say? Did it use motifs or symbols to help make the themes more clear?

2.       Would you recommend this book to your peers? Why or why not?

3.       Provide me with 2 or 3 places where you marked your text with a Notice & Note reading strategy. Explain how what you noticed might be significant to character development, conflict, or theme.

**Article Research:** You’ll do just a little bit of research on a topic connected to your book. You’ll find an article and write a response to the topic. More on this later.

**In-Class Reading:** When one group is conferencing with Mr. D, all other groups will be reading silently in class. This can be difficult for students—this requires focus, concentration, and a willingness to stay on task even when a teacher is not directly watching. You will lose significant points if you are being disruptive or if you are off-task. YOU MUST BE READING YOUR LIT CIRCLE BOOK! Take advantage of the opportunity to get reading done in class.

**Organize your Reading:** On Day 1 of our lit circle unit, you’re required to read the first Chapter (or the equivalent of about 20 pages). After that, you and your group will need to decide what your group’s reading schedule will be. Here’s some of the deadlines that will help guide your reading schedule. WRITE IN EXACT CHAPTERS IN THE BLANKS!

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| **Date *(read by this date)*** | **Reading Due (Chapters/Pages)** |
| Friday, 2/17 | Chapter 1 (first 20-ish pages) |
| Tues, 2/21 | (Get at least 50-60 pages in)  What exact Chapters does this include? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| Friday, 2/24 | Finish the first 1/3 of your book (Most of these books are a little over 300 pages; this means you need to read up around page 110-125. What exact chapters does this include?  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| Tuesday, 2/28 | Get at least ½ of your book finished. This means to read up to around pages 160-175 at least. What exact chapters does this include?  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| Thursday, 3/2 | Get about 2/3 of your book finished. This means read up to around page 210-225. What exact chapters does this include?  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| Monday, 3/6 | Get about ¾ of your book finished. This means read up to around page 270-290ish. What exact chapters does this include?  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| Wednesday, 3/8 | Book Needs to Be FINISHED! |

**Presentation:** You and your group will organize a 20 minute presentation. More on this later!