Purdy

Thematic Short Story

You’ve been reading very well for the past week or so without purpose – just for the love of opening a book and enjoying a story. Not much will change – I have been assessing your reading skills and abilities to stay on task during this time.

This independent short story unit is, ironically, a group effort. The groups around you have all read much different books of different styles and genres. Your task is two-fold for this unit.

Part 1: A Project of your choice

* Teach the class something about your book using monologues (solo speeches), dialogues (speeches/conversations involving two people), recipes, memos (letters or correspondence between characters), role playing, acting a dramatic scene, or a scrapbook
* Use music, art prints, maps (is your book about a journey? Map that journey for your peers!), games (invent a board game or simple computer game the class can play), a video presentation or short movie, an imaginary radio show where you interview a main character from your book
* Use newspaper articles or format, photos, pantomime, sculpture, puppets, or diorama (a scale model scene from your book like those featured in Night at the Museum) to present some idea or characters from your book
* Create a picture book for children (this works ONLY for appropriate content) or design a brief graphic novel of a key scene in the plot of your novel—you don’t NEED to create pictures for the entire book!
* Explain a process—how to make, do or build something. Build a model of something and explain it or have the class build or make something while you tell us how
* You might also take a more conventional route and do a brief literary/research paper on your book. Should you choose this option, you ***NEED*** to consult with me about extra sources, possible topics and the like**.**

Part 2: Group Synthesis Thinking

As a group of 4-5, randomly chosen, you will talk about your book and come up with a common theme that surrounds the book. You will make a Podcast of your discussion (With an iPhone) and send it to me. This podcast will be about 10 minutes in length and will be graded as a whole. I will hand out a rubric closer to the time of the presentations.

QUESTIONS FOR PODCAST:

If you were making a movie of this book, who would you cast?

 Share a favorite quote from the book. Why did this quote stand out?

 Would you read another book by this author? Why or why not?

 What feelings did this book evoke for you?

 What did you think of the book's length? If it's too long, what would you cut? If too

short, what would you add?

 What songs does this book make you think of? Create a book group playlist

together!

 If you got the chance to ask the author of this book one question, what would it

be?

 Which character in the book would you most like to meet?

 Which places in the book would you most like to visit?

 What do you think of the book's title? How does it relate to the book's contents?

What other title might you choose?

 What do you think of the book's cover? How well does it convey what the book is

about? If the book has been published with different covers, which one do you like

best?

What do you think the author's purpose was in writing this book? What ideas was

he or she trying to get across?

 How original and unique was this book?

 If you could hear this same story from another person's point of view, who would

you choose?

What artist would you choose to illustrate this book? What kinds of illustrations

would you include?

 Did this book seem realistic?

 How well do you think the author built the world in the book?

 Did the characters seem believable to you? Did they remind you of anyone?

 If you were to write fanfic about this book, what kind of story would you want to

tell?