

Welcome to Book Club!

Book Clubs are groups of people who meet to talk about their books. For our book project, you will meet in small groups. Be sure to bring your book with you, so you can find the details you need. (If you want to bring beverages and munchies for Book Club, work that out with your group in advance.)

This discussion will focus on the characters in the books. Here are some questions you might consider as you prepare for your book club meeting.

Main character(s)

- What is s/he like at the beginning? What actions/words/descriptions reveal this?
- What forces act on him/her during the novel? How does s/he deal with them?
- What is s/he like at the end? Is this a believable outcome?
- What can the reader gain from the experience of the protagonist(s)?
- In what ways are characters from different books alike? In what ways are they different?
- Can you think of someone who is like the main character? In what ways are they alike, and in what ways are they different?

Minor character(s)

- What does each minor character contribute to the action of the novel?
- In what ways do the minor characters demonstrate growth, if any?
- What minor characters are similar in different novels?
- Can you think of someone who is like a minor character? In what ways are they alike, and in what ways are they different?

Other questions to consider

- What was your favorite part of the story?
- What part did you not understand and what made it confusing? Maybe someone else in your group can explain.
- What did you think of the author's style of writing?
- Did this book remind you of any other books you have read?
- Did the incidents/people in this book remind you of events/people from your own life?
- Would you recommend this book to a friend? Why or why not?
- Why do you suppose this book is considered better than others, good enough to be included in this project?

Indiana standards addressed in this activity: 11.3.5, 11.7.18

When your book club meeting comes to an end, use the rubric below to submit a self-assessment of your participation and an assessment of one other person in your group.

| Book Club Buddy: | | | |
|----------------------------|------------------|--|--|
| | Novice | Competent | Exemplary |
| Contribution to discussion | Didn't say much. | Contributed to the discussion | Contributed generously, courteously, and thoughtfully. |
| Understanding of own book | Didn't say much. | Discussed main points. | Discussed main points and their implications. |
| Character analysis | Didn't say much. | Mentioned one or two traits. | Discussed main and minor characters with insight. |
| Synthesis of ideas | Didn't say much. | Noticed and shared one way different books were alike. | Noticed and shared several commonalities. |

| My Self-Assessment: | | | |
|----------------------------|------------------|--|--|
| | Novice | Competent | Exemplary |
| Contribution to discussion | Didn't say much. | Contributed to the discussion | Contributed generously, courteously, and thoughtfully. |
| Understanding of own book | Didn't say much. | Discussed main points. | Discussed main points and their implications. |
| Character analysis | Didn't say much. | Mentioned one or two traits. | Discussed main and minor characters with insight. |
| Synthesis of ideas | Didn't say much. | Noticed and shared one way different books were alike. | Noticed and shared several commonalities. |

Teacher sheet

| Student | | | |
|----------------------------|------------------|--|--|
| | Novice | Competent | Exemplary |
| Contribution to discussion | Didn't say much. | Contributed to the discussion | Contributed generously, courteously, and thoughtfully. |
| Understanding of own book. | Didn't say much. | Discussed main points. | Discussed main points and their implications. |
| Character analysis | Didn't say much. | Mentioned one or two traits. | Discussed main and minor characters with insight. |
| Synthesis of ideas | Didn't say much. | Noticed and shared one way different books were alike. | Noticed and shared several commonalities. |

| Student | | | |
|----------------------------|------------------|--|--|
| | Novice | Competent | Exemplary |
| Contribution to discussion | Didn't say much. | Contributed to the discussion | Contributed generously, courteously, and thoughtfully. |
| Understanding of own book. | Didn't say much. | Discussed main points. | Discussed main points and their implications. |
| Character analysis | Didn't say much. | Mentioned one or two traits. | Discussed main and minor characters with insight. |
| Synthesis of ideas | Didn't say much. | Noticed and shared one way different books were alike. | Noticed and shared several commonalities. |

| Student | | | |
|----------------------------|------------------|--|--|
| | Novice | Competent | Exemplary |
| Contribution to discussion | Didn't say much. | Contributed to the discussion | Contributed generously, courteously, and thoughtfully. |
| Understanding of own book. | Didn't say much. | Discussed main points. | Discussed main points and their implications. |
| Character analysis | Didn't say much. | Mentioned one or two traits. | Discussed main and minor characters with insight. |
| Synthesis of ideas | Didn't say much. | Noticed and shared one way different books were alike. | Noticed and shared several commonalities. |