

FAT QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION DIRECTORS

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How is _____ related to _____?• Why do you think...?• What motive is there...?• What inference can you make...?• What conclusions can you draw about ...?• How would you classify...?• How would you categorize...?• What is the theme...?• What evidence is there that...?• What ideas justify...?• What is the relationship between...?• How is _____ different from _____?• What part of the reading was the funniest, saddest, most exciting, etc.?• What would you have done if ...?• What was the purpose of...?• What might have happened if...?• What do you think about...? | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How was what we read similar to ...?• What do you think is going to happen next? How do you know?• What is the value or importance of...?• Would it be better if...?• Why did the character choose...?• What would you recommend...?• How would you rate or justify the...?• What would you cite to defend...?• What choice would you have made if...?• What judgment would you made about...?• Based on what you know, how would you explain...?• What should _____ have done differently?• What would have been a good alternative to...?• What could _____ have done to minimize...?• Do you think _____ is a good or bad thing?• How would you have handled...?• What changes to _____ would you recommend?• How would you feel if ...? |
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LIT CIRCLES – FINAL EXAM

Write a four paragraph essay in which you present your understanding of the main character and the overall meaning of your book. Support your ideas with examples and/or evidence from the text. Your essay must include the following:

Introduction:

- background information about your book:
 - author's name
 - title of the novel
 - name of the main character
 - story's setting
 - the problem or conflict of the story
 - a *brief* plot summary
- thesis statement

Two Body Paragraphs:

- one paragraph that describes what the character is like at the beginning of the novel with evidence from the text to support your position
- one paragraph that describes two important events that had a significant effect on the character and caused him or her to change

Conclusion:

- restatement of the thesis in a new way
- explanation and summary of the theme of the story:
 - How has the character changed?
 - What has the character learned about him or herself or about life during the story?
 - What is the author trying to say to us about life and the world around us?

Your writing will be evaluated on how well you write an essay that:

- shows your understanding of the author's message and your insight into the characters and ideas presented in the text
- is organized around clear ideas and/or images from the story
- justifies your interpretation by giving examples and citing evidence from the text
- shows grade level proficiency in spelling, punctuation, grammar, sentence structure, and use of transitional words and phrases

NOTEBOOK ENTRY TOPICS

You are to select eight notebook entries to do independently. Please write the topic number and date at the top of each entry. Minimum length for each entry to receive full credit is one page, without skipping lines. You may only use a topic once. No more than four of your entries may be artsy. All entries that require drawing must be done in color. You can do extra writing entries for extra credit, if you want.

1. What problems do the characters have, and how do they solve them?
2. Which characters would make good next door neighbors? Which ones wouldn't? Why?
3. Describe the setting (time and place) for your book. Could the story take place in a different setting? Why or why not?
4. Tell in your own words how the setting of the story made it more interesting.
5. Did this section remind you of anything that has happened to you? What? Why?
6. Did this section give you any new ideas about yourself? Why?
7. What would the main character be likely to do if s/he visited out classroom?
8. If you were in a problem situation like one in the book, how would you have acted? Be sure to tell what the situation is.
9. What lesson did you learn (are you learning) from the story?
10. Tell about a time something similar to what happened in the story happened to you or to someone you know.
11. Write a letter to a friend recommending this book.
12. Pretend you are one of the characters in the book. Write a diary about the happenings in your life for two days.
13. List the places in the book that are important. Then make up a map including these places as you imagine they may look. It may be a city map or a country map or any other kind of map.
14. What changes would have to be made if the book occurred 200 years ago?
15. If part of your story happened in a foreign land, compare/contrast that land to the United States.
16. If your story occurred long ago, compare that time with today. If it was a modern story, compare it with a long time ago and tell what would be different
17. Pick one of the main characters. Think of a shape that fits that person's traits. Draw the shape. Then describe the character inside the shape
18. Pick an event in the story and decide what the five W's (who, what, when, where, why) and the H (how) would be for that event. Then write a newspaper article including these facts.
19. Write a different ending to a chapter in the book. Tell why you changed it.
20. Describe ways in which the character is like you. How is the character different?
21. Compare this book with the last book you read.
22. Compare two of the characters in this book.
23. What part would you change in the story, and why?
24. Write a short story or another chapter for the book using the same characters.
25. Name one character. Rewrite a section of the story from this character's point of view.
26. Write a poem or song about something in the book. It must be a least twelve lines long.
27. Design an advertisement to sell this book. Use the advertising techniques discussed in class.
28. Pretend you want to make a movie for this book. Explain what actors you would choose to play the parts and why you would choose them.
29. Make an eight section comic strip with captions showing the main events of a part of the story.
30. Imagine Oprah was going to interview one of the characters. What questions would/should she ask and how would the character respond to each one?
31. Prepare a book jacket that illustrates the kind of book as well as the story
32. Divide your paper in four squares. Design and draw four outfits with clothing for the characters.
33. The climax of any book or story is the exciting or interesting part. Tell what you think is the climax of the book and why.
34. Choose an interesting character from your book. Think of what his/her dislikes are; then think of a gift you would like to give him/her. Design a greeting card to go along with the gift in which you explain why you gave that gift.
35. Identify one problem in the book and give an alternate solution that was not given by the author.
36. Imagine that you are the author of the book. Explain why you chose to write this book, who you wanted to read it, and where you got your inspiration.
37. If you could only save one character from the book in the event of a disaster, which one would it be and why?
38. Did you like the way the story ended? Why or why not?
39. Which character in the book would you choose for a friend? Why?
40. What did you think was the most interesting part of the book? Why?
41. Summarize the most exciting part of the book and explain why it was so exciting.