

December Book Club Guidelines/Schedule/Meeting Notes

Why are we doing this?

- Many of you have asked me if we could read another book this semester!
- It will be a nice break from project-work time and something to allow us all to connect on as we quietly read and then discuss the meaning of life while watching the snow gently fall outside my classroom window.
- Reading and discussing literature is fun and helps us be better students and humans!
- I LOVE these books and want to share them with you before I leave for Sabbatical!

Essential Questions

- How can literature help us explore significant themes in life and come to better understand ourselves/others and/or the meaning of life?
- How do the characters in your book define happiness/meaning/purpose? What is the author suggesting about how we should live/love, etc..?

Reading Schedule

Chs/Pg #s	Day/Date
_____	Thursday, November 30th
_____	Wednesday, December 6th
_____	Friday, December 8th
_____	Thursday, December 13th

- ✓ On each of these days, you will have a **meeting** with your book club.
- ✓ Please come to class on these dates **having already read** the chapters/pages your group chose.
- ✓ You will also need to have completed the work for your **assigned role** for that day on your group's google document.

Book Club Requirements Rubric

A (fully complete and aligned with the guidelines as outlined on the book club role handout. Notes are thorough and reveal insights and engagement with the text.)

B (complete but not super thorough)

C (poor effort, incomplete or late)

0 = missing

Assignment	Grade
Daily Role Contribution (x 4 @ 20 pts each)	____/80

Book Club Roles: You must complete your role on time as outlined below for full credit. *See the END of this document for a group's example!*

1. Character Analyzer: What do we learn about the main character(s) in these chapters? For at least two characters, identify at least two passages or quotes that describe or reveal something important about that character. Identify the page number of the passage or quote and explain how it helps us understand that character.

2. Connector/Contextualizer: The purpose of this role is to help provide more context on characters/events/themes/ideas in the novel. Make at least **TWO** distinct connections. Identify clearly the part of the text you are connecting and explain the nature of the connection. These connections can come from your personal life, other course content, other texts you have read, events in history, current news stories, etc.... Write a brief paragraph for each connection.

3. Theme Identifier: Consider the chapters you have read so far and identify at least one theme or "message" you feel that the author is trying to put forth to his/her readers. If you choose only one theme, please select three (3) distinct pieces of textual evidence from what you have read so far and explain how that evidence illustrates the theme you identified. If you choose two different themes to discuss, you only need to explain two pieces of evidence per theme.

4. Discussion Director: THIS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT ROLE! For every group meeting, one person is expected to take on the role of discussion directors. It is your job to summarize the assigned reading for that meeting and ensure that all members of the group share their independent work and lastly to spark a thoughtful discussion. To prepare for this meeting, please complete the following:

- **FIRST, you'll need to write an 8-10 sentence plot summary of the assigned chapters/pages.** Include characters/sections and events in your summary that you feel are important in understanding the text as a whole. In addition to the written summary.
- **SECOND, you should prepare 5-7 open-ended discussion questions for each session you lead.** Be sure to refer back to the essential questions as well. Make sure your questions spark RAD conversation!

Book Club Meeting Role Schedule

*Everyone must have a role for each day, even if that means 2 people are doing the same role!

	Thur. November 30th	Wed. Dec 6th	Friday, Dec. 8th	Thur. Dec. 13th
Character Analyzer				
Connector				
Theme Identifier				
Discussion Director				

Book Club Meeting Notes

Directions: *For each meeting, please type up your contributions under the role you are assigned for that day.*

Meeting #1: Thursday, Nov. 30th

Character Analyzer: _____(Name)

Connector: _____(Name)

Theme Identifier: _____(Name)

Discussion Director: _____(Name)

Meeting #2: Wed. Dec. 6th

Character Analyzer: _____ (Name)

Connector: _____ (Name)

Theme Identifier: _____ (Name)

Discussion Director: _____ (Name)

Meeting #3: Friday, Dec. 8th

Character Analyzer: _____ (Name)

Connector: _____ (Name)

Theme Identifier: _____ (Name)

Discussion Director: _____ (Name)

Meeting #4: Thursday, Dec. 13th

Character Analyzer: _____ (Name)

Connector: _____ (Name)

Theme Identifier: _____ (Name)

Discussion Director: _____ (Name)

Here is one group's example for their 1st book club meeting for

The Glass Castle

Meeting #1: Thursday, Nov. 30th

Character Analyzer: Saige

Father-Rex Walls:

Page 41- "Years from now, when all the junk they got is broken and long forgotten," Dad said, "You'll still have your stars."

This shows that Rex doesn't want or care for material items, and doesn't want his kids to be affiliated heavily with them either. It also shows his devotion to his kids, giving them a very wonderful thing like a star.

Page 23- "Dad turned into an angry-eyed stranger who threw around furniture and threatened to beat up mom or anyone else who got in his way."

Obviously this demonstrates a very dark side of Rex, and a very human flawed side as well. Mental instability is prevalent and is exposed to this family. Maybe Rex is struggling with the stress of supporting a family on the road or running from the casinos and FBI and bill collectors.

Mom-Rose Mary Walls:

"Mom frowned at me, "You'd be destroying what makes it special," she said. "It's the Joshua tree's struggle that gives it its beauty."

This gives an insight on how Rose sees flaws, they're beautiful to her. She's a free spirit and in a world full of forced perfection it's easy to understand why she wants to get away.

Connector: Megan

Connection #1- The first connection I am making is on pg. 66 when her dad was teaching her how to swim. I think it is a really obvious connection to the outside world when he says “you can either sink or swim” which come hand in hand in real life situations. When you have to make tough decisions and can’t decide whether to go the easy way, which would be to sink , or go the hard way, swim. When it comes down to “sinking” you aren’t going to learn or grow much as a person or in your career as much or if at all as you would if you would “swim”. Taking just a guess on what is going to happen in the book and what I think may be apart as a main theme, is when she has to make hard decisions on what to do in her life, and to let go of what’s potentially holding her back. Clearly, she came out to be very successful, which I think is her swimming. If she were to stay with her mom, she would’ve sunk because reading that her mom was on the streets, scavenging for food proves that if she were to hold onto that part of her life, she would’ve potentially sunk and would’ve never learned how to swim, thus what was made her become successful.

Connection #2- The next connection happens throughout multiple pages such as pg.9, pg.16 and pg.34. It’s a recurring factor that she is always playing with fire, and there is the saying, “if you play with fire you get burned”. I found it pretty ironic that after the first time and second time she never learned that lesson about playing with fire, something bad will happen. That being said, I think it’s normal for the Wall’s family to get around doing something dangerous, such as never paying for their bills or rent and then having the bill collectors on their tale almost all the time. With the family always being on the move, it’s almost like they are getting burned because they never have a steady place to stay, a steady job or meals to eat all of the time. If Jeannette had quit playing with the fire, the hotel wouldn’t of caught on fire, she wouldn’t of melted her doll’s face and and she wouldn’t of burnt herself. If Rex or Rose Mary kept a job, and stopped moving around they wouldn’t be as low on money and wouldn’t have to worry about getting arrested or the bill collectors getting to them.

Theme Identifier: Lydia

Theme - Family Loyalty/Forgiveness and Trust in their Dad

All the kids in the family look up to their parents, and have complete trust that they know what’s right and will take care of them. Though they have been hungry and haven’t had a bed to sleep in before, they never lose faith that their father is the “hero” and will always provide for them.

Pg. 118 “I wonder what life will be like now,” I said to Lori.
same,” she said. “He tried stopping before, but it never lasted.”
it will.”
know?”
to me.”

“The
“This time
“How do you
“It’s his present

Jeannette is convinced that even though her dad has let the entire family down so many times he will stop drinking. She still has faith that he will keep his promises and change for the better. Over and over again she forgives her father for everything he’s done because she’s completely loyal to her family.

Pg. 67 “I guess we can eat less,” I said.
“We have before,” Lori said.

All of the kids no that complaining won’t help their situation, and that although there was currently a lack of food, they trusted that that would eventually change. Their loyalties wouldn’t change just due to slight discomfort and lack of material goods for a few months.

Pg. 66 “If you don’t want to sink, you better figure out how to swim.” What other reason, he asked, would he possibly do this? Once I got my breath back, I figured he must be right. There was no other way to explain it.

This quote proves the point that no matter what Jeannette’s dad does to her, she will trust that it was the right thing to do. He makes it seem like he can do anything, and she has the image of someone “unbeatable” who she can always trust to provide for her.

Pg. 29 “Do you like always moving around?” Lori asked me.

“Of course I do!” I said. “Don’t you?”

“Sure,” she said.

Jeannette is dead set on remaining loyal to her family and agreeing with all their decisions. When Lori questioned whether constantly moving was necessarily a good thing, she didn’t even consider maybe being annoyed by the hectic lifestyle that her parents “chose.” (or ended up in)

Discussion Director: Amaya

The story starts by the author seeing her mother digging through the trash in a New York City dumpster. Walls, the author, who is now living on Park Avenue, feels embarrassed of her luxurious life compared to her mother's. After seeing her mother she decides to meet with her. This sparks memories of her unconventional upbringing. Walls, recalls stories from her childhood of galavanting around the west moving every few months in seek of new opportunities and gold. Her father never kept a steady job and was always running into financial trouble with bosses, neighbors, and friends. The only consistent thing about her father was his aspiration to build his family a glass castle in the desert with the money he made from his *Gold Prospector*. Wall’s father also, suffered from a gambling and drinking problem which caused the family more financial issues. We left this section, when the mother got a teaching job in Battle Mountain.

Can you relate to any of the characters? How?

Would you like a life of traveling and adventure like the Walls have experienced?

Do you agree with the parenting choices of *Mom and Dad*?

Have you ever felt the way Walls felt when she saw her mother digging through a dumpster?

What ways can you relate to the book?

