

American Literature: Banned Books

Due Thursday 1/5

Response 3: *Rubyfruit Jungle*

Read up through the end (chapters 12-18) of Rita Mae Brown's novel *Rubyfruit Jungle*. As you read, take notes of points of interest and quotes with page numbers. Don't write in the book, but sticky tabs can help keep track of pages to refer back to in discussion and essays. Then write a 2-3 page informal reflection detailing your thoughts & reactions to the reading. You don't need to summarize the reading, but make sure to talk about points from the whole section to demonstrate you've completed the full reading. This is not a structured formal essay, but an open-ended exploration of the text that can help you engage with the book and formulate your ideas for later essays.

Consider the following guiding questions:

- What in the reading spoke to you? What could you relate to or learn from? Are there any particular quotes that stood out as interesting? Why? Explain.
- What do you notice about the characters? How would you describe their personalities? Their desires? Their fears? The challenges they face or have faced? Their relationships with each other? Their conflicts with either themselves or others? What are their moral codes and worldviews? How does this affect their relationships with each other and themselves?
- What do you notice about the time period and setting? What is the context for this story? How do you think readers might have reacted to this book when it first came out in 1973? How might that compare to how it's read today?
- What themes are emerging? What aspects of these themes do you think Brown is trying to get across? How are different characters affected by these themes?
- What's your general impression of what's happening? Are there parts you're confused by? What questions do you have?
- What's your takeaway in the end? Thoughts on the conclusion? Why do you think the author wrote this book at the time she did and in the style that she did?

This response is due by class time (12:30 p.m.) on Thursday, January 5th. Be prepared to discuss the reading in class.