Name: Date: Hour:

**The Any Book Study Guide**

Book Title:

Author: Year of First Publication:

**Directions:** Complete each of the following task and/or answer each of the following questions neatly and thoroughly. Please use complete sentence.

**Before you Read**

1. Look at the front cover and read the back cover and inside sleeve, if there is one. Note the facts that you know, or think you know, about the book without having read it. *(Your response should be detailed enough to fill the entire space provided.)*
2. At first glance, how do you feel about the novel? Why? *(Your response should be detailed enough to fill the entire space provided.)*
3. Do some quick online research (avoid Wikipedia, please). Learn some basic facts about his/her life, including a brief account of his/her life, what he/she is more famous for having written, and any awards won. *(Again, your response should be detailed enough to fill a piece of lined paper.)*

**Checkpoint Questions**

As a group, you will agree upon 3 checkpoints. Checkpoint 1 should be roughly the first third of the book, checkpoint 2 should be roughly the middle third of the novel, and Checkpoint 3 should be the final third of the work. Once your small group settles upon your three checkpoints, complete each of the following for each.

Checkpoint 1 Questions

1. What is the time and place of the book? What evidence in the book tells you this?
2. Name and describe the main character in the book. Describe him/her physically and describe his/her personality and history, if known. Then give your impression of him/her.
3. Explain one specific aspect of the culture described in the book. Tell how it compares to a specific culture you are familiar with.
4. Find one specific idea, event, or behavior in the book that relates to real life. Explain the relationship you see.
5. Choose a sentence or phrase that attracts you. Explain why you chose it, its value in the book and its value to you.

Checkpoint 2 Questions

1. If the time or place switches around during the book, explain how and give examples. How does this switching serve the story? If it does not switch, why do you believe the author chose this setting? Should there be a switch in time or place?
2. What is the general feeling or mood of the book? Give specific examples of how the author creates that feeling or mood.
3. Compare and contrast two characters psychologically (the way they think and make decisions). To do this, consider their behavior and personality. Consider whether their physical selves support or contrast with their psychological selves.
4. What is the conflict in the novel? Character vs. setting / society / character / self? How has the author made this conflict clear to the readers?
5. Who is the narrator of the story? Is s/he inside or outside the story? What is her/his relationship to the story? Is the book written in the first or third person (I or s/he)? How does that affect the story?
6. Explain the organization of the book. How it is important to the story?
7. What is your reaction to a relationship, event, a behavior or message/theme of the book? Be clear about what you are reacting to and exactly what makes you respond as you do.

Checkpoint 3 Questions

1. If there is any special language used (dialects, foreign words, slang, etc.) give examples and explain its use and purpose. What is its effect?
2. Does the author use humor, irony, symbolism, or metaphors? Give at least two examples and explain the effect.
3. What is the peak event, or the climax, of the novel? What major conflicts lead up to it and what is the resolution afterward?
4. What did you learn from this novel? In answering this, you may comment on any aspect of the novel, including how it is written.

**Basic Components of the Novel**

These components are skillfully interwoven into a work by the author. Each component feeds or supports the other three to create a unified whole, and your understanding of each component will grow as you read. By the end of your reading, you should be able to speak on each of these elements in detail, but you’ll likely want to add to most of these areas as you read.

1. Setting: Describe the details of place and time. Discuss the era, address the cultural freedoms or tensions, and describe each unique location within the setting as a whole. *(Again, your response should be detailed enough to fill the entire space provided.)*
2. Plot: Tell what happens in the novel by highlighting the main events and experiences of the characters. *(Again, your response should be detailed enough to fill the entire space provided.)*
3. Character: Describe the main character(s) and his/her traits. How does the protagonist change throughout the course of the work? If the antagonist is a character within the work, what is the conflict between the two? What is the economic background of the main character(s)? Social status? With what does he/she struggle? Etc.
4. Theme: Write down two theme statements that befit the novel. Then, make note of how the characters, plot, and/or setting support each of the theme statements.
   * Theme 1:

Explanation:

* + Theme 2:

Explanation:

1. What Dominant American Values are present in the novel you read? List 2 and give evidence to support your ideas.
   * Dominant American Value:

Explanation:

* + Dominant American Value:

Explanation:

**Choice Activities**

**Directions:** Choose ONE of the following tasks and complete it on a separate sheet of paper. Please type it or write it out in ink. Be sure to format your task using MLA formatting. Then, attach the task to the back of this packet. **This packet and the activity are due 2/28/2018**.

1. How is the main character of the novel similar to a person that you know or similar to yourself? Discuss your answer in a 12 sentence paragraph.
2. Write a poem or series of poems that parallel(s) the plot of the novel. [At minimum, the poem(s) must contain 4 or more literary techniques and be at least 30 lines long,]
3. Pretend that one of the characters who is living at the end of the novel suddenly dies. Write an obituary that describes this character and his/her accomplishment.
4. Design a detailed map showing the locations of the novel.
5. Compare this novel to another novel/play that you have read previously for this class (*The Painted Drum, The Crucible, The Scarlet Letter*). How are the works similar? How are the works different? Discuss the key similarities or differences in a 12 sentence paragraph.
6. Identify two key symbols within the text. Then, vividly recreate a visual reincarnation of that symbol (ideally, each image will take up a full sheet of 8.5X11 sheet of paper). Also, incorporated into each artistic take on the two symbols should be three or more quotes from the text that illustrate each of the symbol’s significance.