



HANDOUTS

Using Small Book Groups to Increase Reading Motivation among High School Students

Clewiston High School
Clewiston, FL

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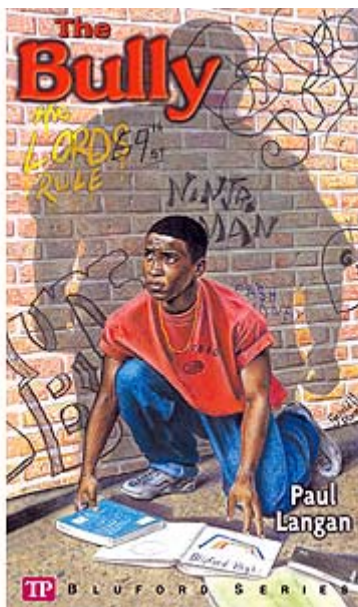
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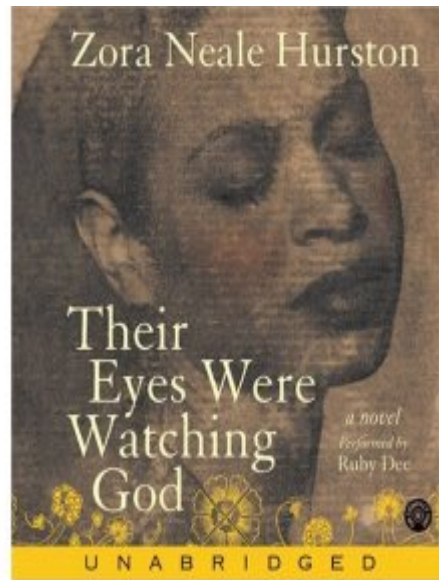
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Stop by Room 1007 and sign up for the next **Book Discussion Group**. Get the books now and read over Winter Break. We will meet at the end of January for our discussions. There is a choice of times to meet and there is a choice of books:



This is one of the Blueford series books about a boy who moves across country to a new school and doesn't exactly fit in.



This is a famous book written in 1937 that has been called an "African American feminist classic." It includes a scene from the terrible hurricane that killed so many people around the Lake.

See Mrs. Thomas in Room 1007 to get your book today!!!

First Book Group “Commercial” read by Reading Coach on Tiger Talk News Program:

Clewiston High School is starting a student book group. This is a group of students that will all read the same book and then meet to discuss it. Our first meeting will be on Tuesday November 27th over lunch which will be provided. This time was chosen so athletes and those who leave early for work can still be a part if they want.

There are 15 copies of the first book available on a first come first served basis to those who catch me in my office Room 1007. The book will be yours to keep. Our first book is Tears of a Tiger by Sharon Draper. I heard her speak this summer at a conference and was very impressed. The book is great!! It's a quick and easy read with short chapters. It is written from the point of view of several different characters and the plot grabs you right from the beginning. It starts out as a basketball player named Andy is driving a car drunk and kills his best friend, the star player. The rest of the book lets the reader know how Andy and everyone else at Hazlewood High is handling this tragedy. Please consider joining this group to try out **reading for fun!!!**

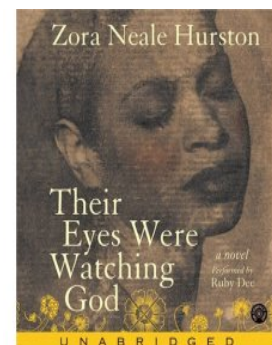
SAMPLE

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP PASS

Please allow _____ to leave First period at 7:35 on Tues., 1/22, to report to the cafeteria.

Thanks.

Mrs. Thomas, Reading Coach



SAMPLE NOTE DELIVERED TO STUDENTS BY FIRST PERIOD TEACHERS ALONG WITH PASS:

January 14, 2008

Dear Book Group Members,

You are signed up for the book group discussion of the Big Read book, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, that will take place on Tuesday, January 22nd during first period. You will report to class, show your teacher your pass to Book Group and then meet me in the cafeteria. Juice will be provided.

I hope you have been able to get some of the book read over the holidays. If you are having difficulty with the slang wording and spelling, please come by my office to see me sometime and I will try to help you. If you have lost the discussion questions that were in the back of the booklet I gave you with your book, come by for another one.

The libraries are sponsoring many activities and group sessions surrounding the book and the experiences of black history in Florida. Below are some I thought you might be interested in. It would be fun for you to show off your reading in the community!!

Mrs. Thomas

***Their Eyes Were Watching God* Activities:**

Wed., January 16, 2008 5:30 pm Family Night at the Montura Clubhouse

Saturday, Jan. 19th Author Talk and book signing by '98 CHS graduate Tekoa Summers
10 am Clewiston Library 3 pm Harlem Library

Saturday, January 26 10:30 am "Bridging the Gap" book discussion will bring together
Teens and senior citizens to learn from one another as the book is discussed.
This activity will continue on Saturday, Feb. 23rd at 10 am.
Both sessions will be at the Harlem Library.

Saturday, Feb. 4th 6 pm Harlem Teen Night book discussion

Thursday, Feb. 7th 6 pm Poetry and music from the Harlem Renaissance Era
Harlem Library

Sat., Feb. 16th 11 am Who was Zora?? About the author at the Harlem Library

Thursday, Feb. 28th 6:30 pm Harlem Renaissance Night- dress in outfits from that era

SAMPLE Questions given out either with book or with reminder

Think about the following questions prior to our group meeting. Mark important sections of the book with sticky notes or bookmarks. Since the book is yours to keep, you can write in it. Please be prepared to discuss these by giving details and examples from the novel.

Nothing to Lose by Alex Flinn

Reading Group Guide
by the author

<http://www.alexflinn.com/content/blogcategory/18/15/>

Warning: Contains major plot spoilers. Do not read before reading the book!

1. Kirstie says Michael's problem is "not knowing whether to be loyal to someone else, or to yourself." How does this issue of loyalty come to play in the book? Does Michael eventually resolve it? How?
2. Why does Michael feel he can't talk to his friends about the problems at home, but considers telling Karpe? Is Michael's concern reasonable? What would have happened if Michael had told Tristan?
3. Why does Karpe take Michael to the fair? Do you believe Michael's stated reason ("It beat going home") for going?
4. To what extent does Michael's relationship with Kirstie affect the other events of the book? How do you think things would have been different if he'd never gone to the fair?
5. Think about the different roles played by the three important female characters in the book – Lisa, Kirstie, and Angela. What do they have in common, and what are their major differences.
6. Why is Michael attracted to Kirstie? How does she differ from other women he knows? By contrast, what do you think attracts Kirstie to Michael? Why does she care what he does?
7. Michael initially views the carnies as freaks, but then feels part of them, more than with his own friends. What is the cause of this change of heart? Have you ever fantasized about running away to a different kind of world? What do you think it would be like?
8. Kirstie has a very fatalistic view of life (Whatever will happen, will happen). Is she right? Does she change this view in the course of the book?
9. Why does Kirstie tell Michael the story about the demise of the freak shows when they are at the party. Were the states right to ban freak shows?
10. Does Walker view himself as a villain? How do you think Walker justifies his abuse of Lisa in his mind?
11. Michael says, "From what I could tell, lots of guys beat on women?" Do you think this is a true statement, or just his perception based upon his experience with his mother and her boyfriends? Do you believe certain women are more likely to be abused than others?
12. Loneliness is a theme which runs throughout the book. Kirstie tells Michael the carnies are lonely even though they're never alone, and Michael is very frank with himself/the reader about his loneliness. Are other characters lonely as well? Which ones?

