

Small Assignments

Character Graphic.....	pg 1
Found Poem.....	pg 2
Lit Journals.....	pg 3
Creative Character Journal.....	pg 4
Analytical Song Lyric Paragraph.....	pg 5
Theme Collage.....	pg 6

Character Graphic

On a small piece of poster board, create a “map” that shows the characters and their relationships with each other.

- For each character create a symbol and three descriptive words or phrases that define this character.
- Use symbols to show the relationships between the characters; for example, if one character loves another, you might use: ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥
- You may have more than one connection between characters.
- Think carefully about how you arrange the characters on your poster board “map.” For example, do you want to put one of the characters in the middle of your graphic or should it look like a pyramid?
- You must include Calle, Alyson, Sam, Cass, Jake, and Eli but you may include any other characters who seem important.

Found Poem

The task is to capture the **Essence** of a story, chapter, passage, character, etc. by drastically editing the text. You must adhere to the following guidelines:

1. Select several phrases (groups of words) from the text.
 - ◆ Each phrase must be at least 2 words long, but no phrase should be more than 10 words long.
2. The phrases you select should then be used to create a poem of at least 15-20 lines.
 - ◆ You may combine phrases into one line of your poem, but remember that no line in your poem should be more than 15 words long.
 - ◆ Remember that it is easier to create a strong found poem if you have several phrases to choose from rather than just finding the minimum number of lines you need for the activity
3. You may use the phrases in any way you like – For example, you may repeat words or clusters of words throughout your poem.
4. You may **not** change the order of the words in the original text.
5. You may **not** add any words of your own. All the words in your poem have to come from the text.
6. You may leave words out of the phrases you select to create a more poetic feel/ sound to your poem.

If you are being asked to present your found poem...

- ◆ Decide how you will present it -- Remember that a reader can have a strong impact on the meaning of the poem.
- ◆ Everyone in the group must be involved in the presentation.
- ◆ You can use single voices or a choral reading.
- ◆ Consider your positioning in the space
- ◆ Consider body positions and gestures
- ◆ Dance/ movement
- ◆ Combinations of the above
- ◆ Etc, etc, etc.

Lit Journals

Divide the novel into four parts. For each of these four sections, you will write one Lit Journal about what you have read. However, don't simply summarize what you have read. It is more important to include analysis about what is going on in the book. Always ask yourself the question: why? Why is the character doing this? Why are events unfolding the way they are? Why do you think characters interact the way they do? Etc. And then answer these questions in thorough detail by using specific examples from the book to back up what you're saying. You should also comment on your opinions, thoughts, and/or concerns regarding plot, character, and/or style. This is a commentary on the book at this point in the reading. Feel free to change that opinion as you read further in the book. These entries should be at least one page each (approx. 250 words) and typed.

Lit journals provide an opportunity for you to write freely (this is not an essay); don't get stuck on a structure, but rather follow all your ideas as they come to you. There is no "right" answer. These journals are an opportunity for you to explore the novel from your own perspective and ideas without a specific topic – whatever you want to write about in regards to your reading of the novel is okay. You are choosing your topics for each entry based on what's grabbing you during the reading.

Creative Character Journal

In the novel, Calle's voice is the constant narrator. For this assignment, you will write two journal entries in the voices of two other characters in the novel (e.g. Alyson, Eli, Sam, Cass, Jake, etc.). The goal of this assignment is to show understanding of the novel from a different perspective.

Each entry must-

- ◆ be at least 250 words (1 page) typed and double spaced
- ◆ focus on specific events from the novel, but retell the events from your interpretation of the way this specific character would have responded to the events (you are creating a new perspective for the same event)
- ◆ focus on creating sensory description to recreate the event – really put the reader into the situation with descriptive detail
- ◆ focus on being true to the voice of this character – how does Cass speak, how does Sam speak? – this should be reflected in the writing.

Analytical Song Lyric Paragraph

Choose a character from *Songs for a Teenage Nomad*, and write an organized analytical paragraph for this character in which you use a song of your choice as a comparative tool for analyzing the character selected. Note: for this assignment, you are focusing on the song lyrics and not necessarily the way the song sounds. See assignment specifics below.

Assignment specifics (please turn in your assignment in this order):

1. The name of the character
2. The song lyrics from the song you selected w/ name of band/artist
3. Your analytical paragraph

SONG LYRICS: On your song lyrics, make sure to edit out any inappropriate language.

PARAGRAPHS: Follow proper paragraph format and make sure to include at least two quotes from the novel to support your analysis in the paragraph. You must also include small pieces of text from the song as support.

Theme Collage

On an 8 ½ by 11 inch piece of white paper, create a collage that visually demonstrates a theme (e.g. friendship, betrayal, love, etc.) from the novel.

- Write your theme at the top of the paper.
- Fill the paper with images that you feel capture your theme.
- The page should be completely filled with images. The paper should not show through at all except for where you wrote your theme.
- BE CREATIVE!!
- On the back of your collage, please include a 50-75 word explanation for your collage. This explanation should defend/ explain the images you chose. These explanations should be thorough and polished.