BOOK CLUB PREPARATION WORKSHEET #1

Book clubs work because each member comes prepared to discuss and share perspectives on a book that all are reading. Students will read the assigned section and complete questions 1-4 in writing before each book club meeting. Any student who has not finished the reading and/or completed the questions cannot participate in the book club discussion at that meeting and will lose 10 points from the book club assignment grade. Your written responses will be collected at each book club meeting.

There aren’t really right or wrong answers to the questions. They are intended to spark your reflection on the book as you read it. Answers that are complete and thoughtful will receive full credit.

QUESTIONS TO BE PREPARED IN WRITING FOR FIRST BOOK CLUB MEETING

Hidden Figures
1. Describe Dorothy Vaughan: what is she like? What do you learn of her background?
2. How did Dorothy handle the balance between her family life and work aspirations?
3. How does the civil rights movement take shape during the time period in Chapter 4?
4. Are the women who become “girl computers” held to a higher standard? Or do they hold themselves to one? Why or why not?

The Bean Trees
1. Brief introduction of the main characters in the book.
2. What is your reaction to Taylor’s decision to take Turtle?
3. After this brief part of the book, do you think you are going to like it?
4. What is one thing from the first three chapters that you want to talk about with others reading the book?

GUIDELINES AND PROMPTS FOR BOOK CLUB MEETING DISCUSSION

Students will respond differently to the book you are reading. Some will love the book, some will strongly dislike it, and others will be neutral in their feelings. All perspectives are accepted in the club. Discussions may become passionate but will always remain respectful. These are opportunities to genuinely listen to an alternative to your own point of view.

Each member should have an opportunity to contribute to the discussion. There is no need to go through the answers to the questions you prepared in writing. Let the discussion flow from the topics and interests of the members as it relates to the book.

At the beginning of your meeting, select a group member who will keep track of the time allocated for the meeting and facilitate the discussion so that each person can contribute. Everyone in the group should assist the facilitator to ensure that the group stays on task and no individual(s) dominates the discussion to the exclusion of others.
BOOK CLUB PREPARATION WORKSHEET #2

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**QUESTIONS TO BE PREPARED IN WRITING FOR SECOND BOOK CLUB MEETING**

**Hidden Figures**

1. How did the end of the war and V-J Day change working conditions in the U.S.? What did it mean for women, in particular?
2. Describe Katherine Goble: where is she from? What is she like? In what ways are she and Dorothy Vaughan similar?
3. What event prompted Mary to accept an offer to work with Kaz Czarnecki?
4. How much of this information did you already know? What have you found most surprising?

**The Bean Trees**

1. What reactions did you have to the account of Ivy and Granny Logan’s stay with Lou Ann and Lou Ann’s feelings about them?
2. How is Lou Ann’s developing relationship with Taylor like and not like her relationship with Angel?
3. How do you respond to Turtle’s development and Taylor’s caregiving?
4. Describe the character that came to Lou Ann and Taylor’s for the “party” who most intrigued you?

**GUIDELINES AND PROMPTS FOR BOOK CLUB MEETING DISCUSSION**

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BOOK CLUB PREPARATION WORKSHEET #3

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QUESTIONS TO BE PREPARED IN WRITING FOR THIRD BOOK CLUB MEETING

Hidden Figures

1. What happened when Katherine sits down to wait to meet her new boss? What impact does this moment have on her?
2. How was the fight for social equality affecting education? How would those practices affect Langley recruitment?
3. What does the change to NASA do for the employees of West Computing?
4. How much of this information did you already know? What have you found most surprising?

The Bean Trees

1. What did you think of Taylor’s reaction to her mother’s marriage plans?
2. How did you respond to the section of the reading describing Turtle’s visit to the doctor?
3. Describe your reactions as you read the chapter Ismene?
4. At one point Taylor says, “How can I just be upset about Turtle, about a grown man hurting a baby, when the whole way of the world is to pick on people who can’t fight back?” Why do you think she said that?

GUIDELINES AND PROMPTS FOR BOOK CLUB MEETING DISCUSSION

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Each member should have an opportunity to contribute to the discussion. There is no need to go through the answers to the questions you prepared in writing. Let the discussion flow from the topics and interests of the members as it relates to the book.

At the beginning of you meeting, select a group member who will keep track of the time allocated for the meeting and facilitate the discussion so that each person can contribute. Everyone in the group should assist the facilitator to ensure that the group stays on task and no individual(s) dominates the discussion to the exclusion of others.
BOOK CLUB PREPARATION WORKSHEET #4

Book clubs work because each member comes prepared to discuss and share perspectives on a book that all are reading. Students will read the assigned section and complete questions 1-4 in writing before each book club meeting. Any student who has not finished the reading and/or completed the questions cannot participate in the book club discussion at that meeting and will lose 10 points from the book club assignment grade. Your written responses will be collected at each book club meeting.

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QUESTIONS TO BE PREPARED IN WRITING FOR FINAL BOOK CLUB MEETING

Hidden Figures

1. In what ways does the soap box derby represent the breaking down of racial boundaries?
2. In what ways was the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom significant?
3. How are the women in Hidden Figures able to express confidence in their work and abilities?
4. Tell me about your overall response to Hidden Figures.

The Bean Trees

1. Taylor reflects on the importance of language, names and history in the chapter Guardian Saints. What response did you have to that section of the book?
2. What thoughts and feelings does Esperanza’s relationship with Turtle bring up for you?
3. Describe your feelings as you read the section describing the visit to the notary public regarding custody of Turtle?
4. Tell me about your overall response to The Bean Trees.

GUIDELINES AND PROMPTS FOR BOOK CLUB MEETING DISCUSSION

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