

**Criteria:**

- Choose an essay topic based on the novel you worked on in your Book Club. Each student the essay individually. If you have an alternate topic you would like to explore, see me ahead of time.
- Make sure to cite any secondary sources you've used in the paper (review format under the "writing" tab on my website: [mspreibisch.wordpress.com](http://mspreibisch.wordpress.com))
- Length: approximately 750-1000 words
- Double spaced, preferably typed (and printed off prior to class).

**General Questions:**

1. **Discuss theme.**  
(*Tips:* Map the progression of the theme and how the author reveals his/her message).
2. **Discuss conflict.**  
(*Tips:* Explore how the protagonist changes as a result of the conflict(s) he/she endures or explore how the conflict relates to/reveals the theme).
3. **Discuss the development of the protagonist.**  
(*Tips:* Discuss in chronological order. Explore the protagonist's journey to enlightenment/the lesson he/she has learned. You may relate to conflict).
4. **Discuss the role of minor character(s) in relation to the protagonist.**  
(*Tips:* What impact do they have on the protagonist? Do they add to the protagonist's development? Link to conflict and theme. Minor characters may also be symbols).
5. **Explain how setting contributes to the novel.**  
(*Tips:* Does it affect conflict?).
6. **Discuss the role of imagery in the novel.**  
(*Tips:* How does the imagery enhance the theme?).
7. **Discuss symbolism in the novel.**  
(*Tips:* How does the symbolism enhance or reveal the theme? How do symbols reveal the protagonist's enlightenment or affect his or her journey/struggles).
8. **To what extent does culture affect the characters?**  
(*Tips:* This can link to theme / conflict / characterization).
9. **How are the social attitudes of the novel's era reflected in the work?**  
(*Tips:* Link to theme and conflict).
10. **Compare and contrast two of the novel's characters.**  
(*Tips:* What is the author's point of juxtaposing these characters?).

11. **Compare and contrast your novel and a film based on the book.**  
(*Tips:* You must have a point! What impact do director changes have on the audience's interpretation of the story?).
  
12. **Discuss the use of contrast in the novel.**  
(*Tips:* Connect to the theme. Explore differences in intellect, social standing, culture, etc. Look at the author's use of: light/dark, good/bad, rich/poor, male/female).