

## ISP Journal #1

After you have finished the first half of your novel, you need to work through (in writing) your thoughts and reactions. **Your journals should not be based on plot summary**; rather, they should express your personal reactions to, and individual ponderings about, what you are reading. In the end, typically journals will somehow end up touching on aspects such as **style, themes, character development, and relationships**, with an emphasis on **YOUR interpretations and opinions**.

Support your ideas with quotations from the text to add depth and insight (as noted on the rubric). Provide in-text citations (page numbers using MLA format), though a Works Cited page is NOT necessary.

- a) For the first part of your first journal, you must choose two (2) of the questions below. These questions are based on using **Reader Response** literary theory when looking at the novel:
- **Predicting or Generating Expectations:** What sort of things could happen in the short and long term? What makes you think so? Predictions require you to make inferences (combine what the text says and what you know from prior experience)
  - **Engaging through Questions:** What specific questions are going through your mind as you read the novel? You could also give what you think might be a possible answer, where applicable.
  - **Making Connections - Personal and Literary Experience:** What connections are you making between events in your own experience and events in the novel? Does the book remind you of other books you have read?
  - **The Implied Reader:** What kind of reader do you think the author had in mind as his or her audience for this book? Are you having any difficulty suspending your own values, prejudices, and world views sufficiently to enable the book to impact you? Why?
- b) For the other part of your first journal, you need to look at your reading so far using **Feminist Literary Theory**. Choose two (2) of the following questions to answer for this part:
- What is the protagonist's attitude toward the male and female characters in the text? To what extent do you think his/her attitudes are affected by gender? How is this evident and how does it affect your response to the characters?
  - How are women represented in the text?
  - What roles do both men and women play within family, work situations, etc.? (for example, hero, breadwinner, friend, helper, cook, servant, sex object...)
  - What were the social and historical conditions for women in this period that might help us understand their roles and desires in the text?
  - How do women exercise their power in the text? What are the consequences? How do men react in response? and other women?
  - How and to what degree are the women's lives limited or restricted in this text?

\*\* material adapted from ELO's ENG 4U AEH course \*\*

**Assessment Criteria**

- Your journal should be approximately 4-5 pages, double spaced.
- It should contain direct references to your text and parenthetical citations (you do NOT need a Works Cited page though for this\_
- Write in well-developed sentences and paragraphs
- Since this is a journal, keep your level of language conversational but still clear and effective. Write in first person ("I").
- Make observations that go deeper than the surface of the text. Think about the choices the author has made in constructing the text.