**Book Club Meeting #2**

English 122 – R. Stiles

Now that you have constructed a sociogram of your novel and novel’s characters, consider how characters and society intersect in more detail.

Find and sticky note passages that address any **five** of the following questions:

* What are the author’s possible social motives for telling this story? To illustrate a point? Dramatize a problem? Impress an audience? How are these motives illustrated through characters’ thoughts, conversations, and other behaviours?
* How do I feel about these characters? Close or distant? How do they feel about each other and themselves? Is my relationship with certain characters changing? (Are they becoming more/less relatable/honourable/appealing?)
* Do I identify with the author’s implied audience of not? (Would I be a likely friend for this author or the book’s characters? Why or why not?)
* How does the setting affect the characters? The story’s/narrator’s credibility?
* Who tells the story? How does this perspective influence the telling?
* How are the characters in the novel portrayed? (Think of archetypes
* What social and cultural forces (e.g., peer groups, mass media, family, school, region, historical period language; religious, social, or political communities, race, ethnicity, gender) appear to have shaped the author’s rendering of this text?
* How are the characters shaped by the social forces around them? Are they positive forces that encourage growth, negative forces that discourage it, or somewhere in between? How do these characters accept/reject/subvert/transcend the values imposed by these cultural forces?

These questions are meant to help you to explore the big ideas raised by your book and your reactions to them. You will use these to guide your book club discussion. First, record five quotations that you have found to be noteworthy. You don’t have to write down whole passages, but include short excerpts and record the page numbers for easy reference during the discussion. Secondly, respond to each quotation. Before your meeting, you should have your response typed/handwritten neatly on paper.

**HAVE THESE READY FOR CLASS. IF YOU ARE WORKING ON THEM DURING THE MEETING/CLASS, OR TRYING TO HAND THEM IN LATE WHATSOEVER, THEY WILL BE VALUED AT ZERO.**