**Book club Meeting #2 – Creativity with Language**

If you have written a short story, poem, essay or letter, then you know how challenging it can be to find just the right words to express your thoughts. The author of your book undoubtedly spent much time and energy choosing the precise words to convey meaning. Atmosphere, tone and connotation are achieved through careful selection of vocabulary.

Your Book Club meeting today will allow you to be creative with the language that your author has already selected. As a group, decide which of the following projects you want to work on during this Club meeting. Only **ONE** of the following 4 assignments needs to be completed.

1. **WORDLE.** Creating a wordle allows you to consider the most important language in the text so far.

 Your group must create a list of **the 40 most significant words** in your book. You may create this list based on the frequency of usage, the impact on the reader, or the significance of the word as it relates to the overall meaning of the text.

 **Arrange these words** in an intricate pattern on your paper, with the most important/frequent words getting the largest size print, and the least important/frequent words on your list getting the smallest size print. (Avoid using connective words such as prepositions and conjunctions.)

 A quick glance at your wordle should provide someone with the essence of your text and its language. (Refer to the example provided.)

 **On a separate sheet of paper, explain and defend your choice of the 5 BIGGEST words in your wordle.**

2. **FOUND POEM.** Use the language of the book to write a found poem. Decide on a focus for your poem: retell the story, highlight a theme, explore a character, or expose a chapter/section.

 You will need a minimum of 15 lines.

Use ONLY words from your book. Be creative with them; play with the language in unconventional ways (ex. nouns can be used as verbs).

 Carefully arrange the words on your page to convey meaning poetically. How you place each word can say as much as the word itself.

 *\*You’ve already written a found poem this semester. You may want to draw on the experience you gained the first time you wrote one.*

**3. IN OTHER WORDS.** This is your opportunity to **REDO** or **UNDO** the language that your author has established. This is not an attempt to “one-up” the author or “dumb down” the text; rather, it is a chance for you to explore the intricacies of language.

 The **redo** requires you to take a 2-page section of your text and rewrite it for a different effect.

* If the characters speak using slang, you may want to rewrite the dialogue using sophisticated and grammatically correct language.
* If the text is written using jargon, you may need to rewrite it using language that anyone can understand.
* If the text is exploring a sad situation, try using language that conveys the opposite effect – happiness – to retell the same scenario. Will changing the language choices only, not the events, change the reader’s impression of the event?

This will allow you to understand the importance of language selection and its ability to convey tone and atmosphere.

 OR

The **undo** requires that you take a 3-page section of your book and unwrite it. **Discard** all of the unnecessary language: adjectives, adverbs, repetition, explanations. **Preserve** only the language which is needed to convey the meaning. **Rewrite** the text in its “bare bones” format. Maintain proper punctuation and keep any dialogue which may be present.

**4. TEXT + YOU.** This activity gives you the chance to write in the style of the author and become part of the text.

 Choose at least **one full page of text** from your book that you feel you can

 use more explanation.

 Using **two different colours of ink,** alternate the author’s text with your additions to the manuscript. This may proceed by alternating sentence by sentence, paragraph by paragraph, or any other way you want to interject your additions. The text that you add should be equal in quantity to the author’s text. Try to imitate the author’s style, especially in regard to language choices.