

Novel Two: Assignments and Initial Group Planning

Reading 91/92—Harrigan (2 pages)

Assignment:

You will choose a book from a list, join with a small group, and read the book together. You will work on a presentation of this book to demonstrate your thorough knowledge of the plot, author, character, themes, and main points.

There are four parts to Novel Two work: **(1) Group Presentation (2) Group Plan (3) Focus Questions (4) Reading Log**. Your broad goal is to convince your instructor and your classmates that you, as an individual contributing equally to a group effort, have worked with a group to read, understand, and can interpret the entire book in depth.

1. Group Presentation:

A. Length: Group presentations will last about 30 to 45 minutes, with 5 minutes minimum for each person in the group.

B. Evaluation: Presentations are respectfully evaluated in four ways--by classmates, by the group members, and by the instructor. You will give evaluate your own work, and the work of your peers. If you do not want to be assigned a grade by classmates, then be sure to tell your audience this in advance of the oral presentation. Though the instructor assigns a final grade for the presentation based on a set of pre-established criteria, group member evaluations will provide her with input.

You will receive individual grades on the presentation based on your demonstrated knowledge of the book--content, themes, and author's intent. Teamwork, creativity, and clarity are important. The group must work together to make sure that all members are given the opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge and that there is minimal overlap in content. If your work has been "behind the scenes," then you must tell the audience what you have done and how much time was involved.

C. Order of Presentations: The shortest books are presented first.

2. Group Plan and Timeline: You will complete a Group Plan (form) and timeline. Only one is needed per group, and must be signed by all. This is a projection of meeting times, props, and rehearsals.

3. Focus Questions: You will turn in typed, formal answers to Focus Questions that require analysis of your book. The Focus Questions, on e-reserves, can be used when groups meet. By orally discussing these questions when the group meets, you will better understand the book's main ideas and characters.

4. Reading Log: Each person will write this log in two parts. It will include a "Summary" and a "Personal Response" based on the reading of a specific 25 pages that you choose to use in the book. Group members will each choose a different 25 page unit of the book for their individual Reading Log.

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Initial Group Planning: Answer the following questions as you establish your group.

1. The Presentations are scheduled for these dates:

2. The first presentations will be given in _____ number of weeks.

3. This means that I need to read _____ number of pages each week to be ready.

4. The total number of actual class days before the first presentation is _____.

5. Our group members will contact each other outside of class by (circle one or more) phone, e-mail, or _____.

4. List names of group members, contact information, and stated strengths below.

5. My Reading Logs will cover the following 25 pages: _____. These are due on the day we present.

6. The Group Plan is due on _____. The Focus Questions are due on _____.