

Reading Journal Expectations – Harlem Renaissance and Black Identity

As you read your book of choice (*Black Boy*, *Native Son*, *Invisible Man*, *Go Tell it on the Mountain*) you are expected to keep a reading journal that you will share with your reading circles in every class.

In this reading journal, you will do the following before each class:

1. Write a brief summary of pages read.
2. Write two questions for discussion for your group. Consider questions of characterization, theme, style, setting, etc. These should be questions you can discuss as a group – not questions you know the answers to, or factual questions you can easily research. Go heavy on the “why” and “how” questions.
3. Write out two “quotes of note” from the reading. These quotes should be notable – and you should be able to suggest **why** they are notable. For example, you might quote an evocative description, a startling metaphor, a statement of character purpose, a statement of authorial intent, a thematic connection, etc.
4. Track two themes. One of these themes should be “black consciousness” and the other is for you to determine. These themes will develop and change as the books continue – your job is to track that development. You can use a timeline, or simply take notes on how the theme begins to take shape in your book and how it develops.
5. As the direction from the Reading Circle designates:

-At the end of your novel discussion, choose one quotation to share with the other two novel groups.

-Post this quotation on google classroom

-View the other groups’ quotations posted on google classroom

-Choose one of the quotations, and write a brief (2-10 sentences) explanation of how that quotation connects to your novel of choice.

-Write this explanation as part of your next journal.