Grade 9 Literature Circles Ms. Tate

In our novel study unit, you will choose from a selection of novels to read with 3-4 other students. In your reading circle, each student will have specific responsibilities to the group and these will help each student to contribute to the group presentation on the novel.

In addition, you will work independently on a project chosen from the list below. Before choosing how you will present what you have learned, try to identify the issue that is dealt with in the novel as some formats may work better with particular issues.

*Possible issues:*

Vandalism, The Golden Rule, Expectations (of self or others), Relationships, Loneliness, Prejudice, Harassment, Self-esteem, Death, Aging, Growing up, Effects of evil, Personal Happiness, Loyalty, Knowledge used for power, Heritage, Duty, Honour, Leadership, Survival, Inner Conflict (or dilemma), Inhumanity to others, Responsibility, Empathy, Self-control, Manners, Love, Commitment, etc.

*Possible projects: (Please see me if you have another idea you’d like to propose.)*

1. Write an essay. Some of you are natural essay writers and others may want to strengthen their essay writing skills. See me if you need help getting started.
2. Make several connections. Build a collection of other forms of writing that connect with the novel and explain how they connect. Find poems, a short story, and articles from the newspaper or magazines.
3. Write a newspaper article reporting a major event in the novel as well as an editorial in which you express your views on the issue involved.
4. Write the next chapter, the one after the book has ended. Try to imitate the author’s style of writing and make it original (i.e. no ideas take from something you have read or watched on TV).
5. Write a lengthy e-mail to the author, explaining how the novel has affected your thinking. Print out the e-mail showing the author’s contact info, even it is directed to his or her attention through the publisher. This will be mailed!
6. Write a long letter – or a series of letters – from one character to another or from you to one of the characters, indicating the relationship between the two – or how you identified with the character. Show your understanding of the personal situations and the process by which the relationship was formed.
7. Write the script of a play where the antagonist of your novel is put on trial or, alternatively, interviewed by a counselor or journalist. Organize classmates or members of your reading group to present the ‘play’ in a live or pre-recorded reading of your script.