

Discussion Questions for Lit Circles- Journal Entry #9

Answer these questions in your response journal. This is INSTEAD of doing a journal task for the final day.

To Kill A Mockingbird

1. How does telling the story from Scout's point of view enhance the story? What if it was written by Jem's point of view? How would it be different?
2. After she takes Boo home, Scout understands many new things because she is able to see the street from his point of view. Explain some of the things she now understands about Boo's perspective.
3. What are **two** of the major themes in this novel? Write them out in a properly constructed theme statement.
4. At the end of the novel, Atticus reads to Scout as she drifts off to sleep. How does the topic of the story connect to one of this novel's major themes?

In the Heat of the Night

1. Compare and contrast the Sam Wood we meet in the early paragraphs with the man we knew at the beginning of the story. Account for any changes that the story has produced.
2. Explain the significance of the title "In the Heat of the Night". Give possible reasons why he chose this title.
3. Compare this detective story with a television serial which you have seen. Relate the hero of this book to the heroes of other famous crime detection book, movies, etc.
4. What are **two** of the major themes in this novel? Write them out in a properly constructed theme statement.

The Crysalids

1. What are the two major themes in this story? Give two well constructed theme statements.
2. When deviants are found they are sterilised and banished to The Fringes, yet later in the story it seems only the women are sterilised. Women also seem to be the only ones to blame for the birth of a deviant. Knowing that The Crysalids was written in 1955, do you think the bigotry towards women is part of the story only or possibly influenced by society at the time?
3. Later when the children meet the Zealander she tries communicating to them that they should spare the villagers because they don't understand,

and yet she doesn't seem to have any compunction with wiping out another species or other people if they're different. Do you find her views any better than the arrogance of the villagers?

4. Do you think that the new society, the Zealanders, will be any different in their attitudes to others compared to the old society, the villagers?

The Cage

1. "As long as there is life, there is hope." What does Ruth Mensky mean by this? How does it relate to her story?
2. Are there any **other** heroes/heroines in this novel? Explain who and why.
3. "Could it happen here, Mommy? Could it happen again?" What do you think? Explain.
4. What are the two major themes in this story? Give two well constructed theme statements.