**Summer Novel Group Presentations**

**Assignment**

As master analysts of the two summer novels, *Their Eyes Were Watching God* and *Into the Wild,* you will work with an assigned group to provide a thoughtful and analytical response to your assigned question. You will present to the class in an engaging and informative way so that everyone in the room understands the deeper, more subtle implications of the question and its connection to the novels.

**Task**

With your group, analyze the question you have been assigned and connect it to the assigned novel. Use your resources—I expect there are words or concepts in each question with which you are unfamiliar. **You have 9 – 10 minutes per presentation**. This presentation must be *rehearsed ahead of time*. Each person must know for what he/she is responsible, and everyone must be ready to answer questions that arise regarding your content.

**Presentation Requirements:**

* A creative, interesting **visual aid** that enhances the presentation of your analysis and the connections to each character. *Think:* How could you visually represent this? Help us see the connections!
* Model close textual analysis and refer to the text to prove / support your points. ***Utilize significant quotations that stand out / connect to your analysis. Discuss the purpose*** ***/ effect of the quotation.***
* Respond thoughtfully to questions posed by the class to cover points not necessarily addressed during the presentation.

*Your presentation should demonstrate a thorough understanding of your question*

*and its deeper connection to each novel (and each main character).*

**Presentation Logistics:**

* Two to three groups will present each day, starting on Monday, September 12.
* The entire class is responsible for having the summer novels out during presentations, making notes on individual group handouts, and contributing to the class discussion when appropriate.
* Group work time will be given **Tuesday, September 6 through Friday, September 9**
* **.** Any needed technology must be provided by the group itself.
* Work will need to be completed at home as well, in specific reference to the presentation component of the assignment.

Member names (and phone numbers if necessary):

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**Discussion Questions**

***Their Eyes Were Watching God*:**

1. As will be proven through the entirety of this course, the experiences of authors are often manifested in their literature. How is the life and cultural heritage of Zora Neale Hurston evidenced in *Their Eyes Were Watching God*? Consider the point of view, life experiences, and struggles. How do authors write themselves into the story?

2. What matters most in Janie’s search for identity? Consider the role of women in her culture,

 family, or society; friendships and family relationships; death; perceptions of various ethnic groups.

***Into the Wild*:**

3. The literary movement of Naturalism (use of Jack London and others) suggests that man is a victim of his environment and does not have control over his surroundings. How do events and outcomes in *Into the Wild* relate to this idea? Consider McCandless attempts to control his environment or not and his desire for escape.

4. The literary movement of Transcendentalism (use of Emerson and Thoreau and others) suggests that all humans are connected by a universal soul (simplified, we will call it nature) and that humans need to get back to nature in order to understand themselves better. How do events and outcomes in *Into the Wild* relate to this idea? How and why does McCandless use isolation to test himself?

5. What dichotomies of human nature are presented in *Into the Wild*?

***Their Eyes Were Watching God* and *Into the Wild*:**

6. Compare and contrast the importance of family within these two works.

7. Compare and contrast protagonist’s feelings of isolation between the two works.

8. How do Janie and Chris use isolation in their lives? For what purpose, how, and why?

9. In what ways do Chris and Janie come to terms with the idea of home and the importance of place?

10. What does the American Dream mean to Janie and Chris McCandless?