

## **Tuesdays With Morrie**

### Class-Wide Discussion Grading

#### **Discussion Structure**

- Only students who have completed the assigned reading pages by all discussion deadlines are allowed in the classroom for the discussion; those who were absent or not finished with the assignment will continue reading in an alternate location. If the student catches up with reading before the discussion is over, they are welcome to join discussion and earn points. Illness the day before a Discussion Day does not an acceptable reason for not having the reading done.
- Missed discussion dates due to absences (school events, illness, et cetera) must be made up outside of class. Students must sign up with Mr. Tobey or Mrs. Bielenberg; no impromptu meetings will be accepted. Or, students can write out & submit close-reading notes with all the required elements (C/B-Level content, page/paragraph numbers, quotes/paraphrases, lenses/strategies used)
- *Missed discussion dates due to incomplete reading cannot be made up; a failing grade for that discussion will be submitted.*
- Discussions are student-generated.
- Grading for class-novels is determined by the following:

***NOTE: ALL SHARED DISCUSSION MUST INCLUDE PAGE/PARAGRAPH #, QUOTE/PARAPHRASE, AND IDENTIFY THE CLOSE READING STRATEGY (CRS) OR CRITICAL LENS (CL) TO BE COUNTED FOR CREDIT!***

#### ○ **C-Level**

- Fact-based content offered during discussion (e.g., character identification, recalls fact-based information from the text, et cetera) – CRS
- Volunteers to read lines, passages, or quotes that stand out. – CRS
- Asks relevant questions to further understanding (e.g., asks for word definitions, asks for clarifications of events or characters, etc) – CRS
- Must volunteer 4-8 contributions per discussion day for full credit at this level

#### ○ **B-Level**

- Draws connections to self or community. – CRS
- Foreshadows events based on evidence from text. **NO SPOILERS!**
- Speculates on character motivation. CRS/CL
- Write down *aphorisms* that are important & explain why. CRS/CL
- Share passages that support any theme(s) you find important. CRS/CL
- Suggests meaning or symbolism behind particular lines or text features. CRS/CL
- Critiques author style on selected text passages backed with supporting details. CRS/CL
- Must volunteer 3-6 B-level contributions per discussion day plus the 4-8 C-Level prompts for full credit.

#### ○ **A-Level**

- Must have all C and B Level criteria met.
- Draws connections to national, world, contemporary, and/or historical events **backed up by credible outside sources** (*NOTE: Sources must be verified: print source off, bring in newspaper, et cetera...*). Printed source must be turned in.
- A-level points will NOT be awarded if outside material has weak connections or the student isn't able to make connections.
- One A-level prompt must shared ***during*** the discussion day. Failure to share A-Level work during the day forfeits the extra points.

#### **Chapter Guides**

A sample chapter guide for the first section of reading will be provided as a sample of C and B-level questions. For all remaining discussions, each student is responsible for creating his or her own chapter guide questions. These guides are to provide speaking-points for discussions; the guides themselves are not graded. Students are able (and encouraged!) to use the Close Reading Notes Template handout if it helps them stay organized.