

# Quotes Project

(Created by Anne Arvidson and presented at Atlanta NCTE Convention)

## Assignment

While reading your novel, you will collect a minimum of at least ten (10) annotated passages/quotes from the novel and "The Quote of the Novel" (so, this is a minimum total of eleven [11] quotes). Then you will write a **REFLECTIVE LETTER** about the novel that you read and your reactions to both it and the annotated passages that you assembled.

## Procedure

Use post-its to note/mark passages as you read. Every time you encounter a particularly important, provocative, dramatic, surprising, even disturbing passage, mark it with a post-it note. Only when you have completed the novel will you look at all those passages and decide which to toss out and which to keep. Therefore, when you finish reading your book, you will select at least ten (10) passages from throughout the novel. Copy the passages down (including page numbers) and then write about each passage in the following ways:

First, in a well-written paragraph explain how the passage "fits" into the novel (does the passage add to the character development, the plot line, the details of setting, and so forth). Discuss the importance of the passage to the book's message or meaning or theme.

Then, in a well-written paragraph react to the passage as a reader. Make me understand **WHY** you have selected this passage. To generate responses, you can consider the following as suggested prompts or questions:

- Why does the passage impress, intrigue, horrify, or puzzle you?
- Do you find the author's use of language appealing or powerful? Does the passage jump off the page as a great descriptive passage?
- Does it prompt a strong response from you as you read it? Does it present itself as so well crafted that you just love the sound of it? Is the language beautiful, descriptive, and graphic?
- Is it particularly meaningful? Is it a high point in the book?
- Do you find yourself in agreement/disagreement with the ideas expressed?
- Does the passage remind you of a situation you have lived as well?
- Does the passage make you laugh aloud, make you melancholy, or make you something else?
- Does the author or the character raise intriguing questions or issues?
- Does the passage challenge or expand your thinking?
- You get the idea.

You are not limited to the above list, nor do I expect you to answer all of the above. However, your responses to the passages should clearly explain to me **WHY** these passages mean something to you, **WHY** these passages caught your attention.

Then, select **ANOTHER, DIFFERENT** passage as "The Quote of the Book": that one passage or quote that captures the essence – the true meaning – of the novel for you, the reader. In a well-written paragraph, explain exactly **HOW** this passage is the one perfect quote from the book [Think of this as the one passage that you would absolutely want saved should your book ever be lost or destroyed.]

Lastly, you need to write me a **REFLECTIVE LETTER** about reading this novel and creating your quotes paper. Write to me about the thoughts, feelings, observations, and new insights you experienced while reading your novel. Write to me about marking the quotes as you read and then selecting the ones to keep. Some things to think about for your letter may include, but are not exclusive to:

- Tell me what you worked on the hardest or struggled with in doing this assignment
- Share with me what you think you did well: what worked, really worked
- Show me where you were drawn into the novel and where you were pulled away from the novel. Identify in your opinion the author's – or the story's – greatest strength and weakness
- Discuss in what ways the novel is similar to your life
- Explore what value, besides entertainment, this book has
- Share your overall impressions of the novel
- Discuss if you found yourself changing your mind about the book and/or the assignment
- Tell me what you as a reader and as a student need to focus on for the next assignment

Your **REFLECTIVE LETTER** is your chance to "talk" with me about your book, your project, and your experiences in completing this assignment. With your letter, make me see your work – and your learning – through your eyes.

### **Important Stuff**

All aspects of this assignment must be typed.

Passages/quotes must be at least two (2) sentences long. [Many of your passages should – and will be – longer than two sentences.]

Passages/quotes must be from throughout the entire novel.

All passages must be in quotation marks – and be sure to copy the passage exactly as it appears in your novel.

All passages must include the page number. Cite page numbers as (235), or (16), or (105).

This assignment is due on the day it is due – late penalties will be given

The Reflective letter is a **required** component of this assignment.