Fitzgerald

Assessment Activity – Socratic Discussion of a Short Story

We have discussed literary terms, definined the terms, taken three checkpoints on these terms, analyzed a story applying these terms together, analyzed a sory applying these terms with a small grup, discussed this story to follow up that group work as a class, and brainstormed the type of topcs a articipant could bring up in the discussion a story.

As an assessment of where you stand individually in your ability to analyze a story using the literary discussion points of plot, conflict, and theme, we will have Socratic discussions of three stories. Each student will draw a lot to decide which story they will discuss. Each discussion will have 10 or 11 members, allowing each student to jump into the discussion. The class will listen to the discussion. ***Each student will take a brief homework/comprehension quiz*** before the discussion to check to make sure they have read the story. ***Students will be assessed on whether they have achieved the qualities of a strong discussion.*** (See below.) After the discussion, ***students will write a paragraph assessing the success of the discussion***, speaking to the qualities of discussion (See five qualities of a great discussion listed below) and the literary ideas expressed in the discussion.

**Short Stories to be read** -

“The Lie” by Kurt Vonnegut

“The Moustache” by Robert Cormier

“The Crush” by Cynthia Rylant

**Questions Brainstormed by Students for Literary Socratic Circle Discussion of Short Story**

Who is the main character?

Why would the author include that step of rising action? How does that step of rising action increase the readers’ understanding of the conflict?

What is the setting? Is this setting important in the story?

What is the climax?

What is the conflict?

Is this an internal or external conflict?

Which of the universal conflicts does this conflict fit? Character v. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Why is that the resolution?

Is it effective?

What is the theme?

How does the resolution convey that theme?

Is the title effective?

Why is that the title? Why would the author chose this for the title?