

10th Grade Thematic Topic: Power and Responsibility

Guiding Questions

- How does power affect people?
- How do people use language to manipulate others?
- What are the qualities of an effective leader?
- What is the relationship between freedom and responsibility?

Life of Pi by Yann Martel: One boy. One boat. One tiger. After the tragic sinking of a cargo ship, a solitary lifeboat remains bobbing on the wild, blue Pacific. The only survivors from the wreck are a sixteen-year-old boy named Pi, a hyena, a zebra (with a broken leg), a female orangutan--and a 450- pound Royal Bengal tiger. The scene is set for one of the most extraordinary and beloved works of fiction in recent years.

The Joy Luck Club by Amy Tan: Intensely poetic, this book explores the tensions and powerful bonds between generations and cultures. The mothers, all born in China, tell about grueling hardship, the tyranny of family pride and the fear of losing face. The daughters try to reconcile their personalities, shaped by American standards, with seemingly irrational maternal expectations. Each chapter stands alone; yet personalities unfold and details build to deepen the meaning of the whole.

1984 by George Orwell: Among the seminal texts of the 20th century, Nineteen Eighty-Four is a rare work that grows more haunting as its futuristic purgatory becomes more real. Published in 1949, the book offers political satirist George Orwell's nightmarish vision of a totalitarian, bureaucratic world and one poor stiff's attempt to find individuality. The brilliance of the novel is Orwell's prescience of modern life—the ubiquity of television, the distortion of the language—and his ability to construct such a thorough version of hell. Required reading for students since it was published, it ranks among the most terrifying novels ever written.

Ender's Game by Orson Scott Card: Andrew "Ender" Wiggin thinks he is playing computer simulated war games; he is, in fact, engaged in something far more desperate. The result of genetic experimentation, Ender may be the military genius Earth desperately needs in a war against an alien enemy seeking to destroy all human life. The only way to find out is to throw Ender into ever harsher training, to chip away and find the diamond inside, or destroy him utterly. Ender Wiggin is six years old when it begins. He will grow up fast.

But Ender is not the only result of the experiment. The war with the Buggers has been raging for a hundred years, and the quest for the perfect general has been underway almost as long. Earth has no future at all if Ender fails.

The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People by Sean Covey: Imagine you had a roadmap—a step-by-step guide to help you get from where you are now, to where you want to be in the

future. Your goals, your dreams, your plans...they're all within reach. You just need the tools to help you get there.

Covey provides a simple approach to help teens improve self-image, build friendships, resist peer pressure, achieve their goals, and appreciate their parents, as well as tackle the new challenges of our time, like cyberbullying and social media. In addition, this book is stuffed with cartoons, clever ideas, great quotes, and incredible stories about real teens from all over the world.

Product to bring to class on day 1: Note-Taking Options

1. Dialectical Journal (Two-Column Notes): Using a two-column format, engage in a written dialogue with the text as you read. In the left-hand column, write the important text. In the right-hand column, respond to the text. This is where you can include reflections, analyses and explanations of how the text connects to the thematic questions.

2. In-Text Annotations: For in-text annotations, you will need to have a physical copy of the book. Record your notes directly in the book (if you purchased the book) or on post-it notes, reflecting how the text connects to the guiding questions. You will need to bring the book and your notes the first day of classes. Each post-it shall include the date and page number.

3. Outline: Create a structured outline focused on the theme and supported with textual evidence. It may be helpful to organize it based on the plot or by guiding questions.

4. Mind Mapping: Create a visual representation of text, important characters or plot episodes that connect to the guiding questions. Use lines, arrows, bubbles and/or sketches to link notes to the theme.

Rubric to score the product:

20 Description Notes are thorough and reflective, and appear to cover the full length of the text.	10 Notes are somewhat thorough and reflective, and appear to cover some of the text.	0 Student did not complete or submit notes.
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