***Al Capone Does My Shirts* Literature Circles**

**Chapters 11-15**

**Assignments:**

**Discussion Director:** Your job is to come up with 5 thought-provoking questions. Be sure to write down your questions, the answers to your questions, and the page numbers where the answers can be located or supported with specifics.

Types of Questions to Look for:

1 prediction question (What do you think is going to happen?

1 compare/contrast question

2 fact questions (basic fact questions from the novel)

1 opinion question

**Passage Picker:** Your job is to choose 4 passages that enable your group to really engage in a discussion about that specific section/passage. The following types of passages are ones you will want to find.

Write down their page #, the paragraph #, and give an explanation of why the passage you chose is of the selected type. In other words, why did you choose the passage?

Then, write a FAT question about the passage and answer either: Why did the author include this passage? Or What does this passage add to the story?

Types of passage to find for this section:

1 descriptive passage (include imagery and/or sensory details)

1 passage with a conflict

1 passage that you believe is important

1 passage with a problem/solution

**Historian:** Your job is to examine an outside source (newspaper article, web site, encyclopedia, etc.) that have connections to the novel being read and share the information with the group. Share at least 2 interesting facts you learned from your source. Make connections to the novel (if possible).

Study: Autism—Look for more information than you included last time

**If There is a Fourth Group Member:**

**Character Sketcher**: Your job is to write down 3 character traits of **Mama**. Include the page, paragraph number, and an explanation or proof of the traits. Next, you need to state the character’s goal, problem, and solution or possible solution. Identify an object that represents this character (it can be an animal or a place or a thing). Draw a picture of this item and give solid evidence why this object is symbolic.

Who are the other characters we’ve been introduced to? Write 1-sentence descriptions of these characters.

**ALL TOGETHER (after reading):**

Your job is to:

1. Identify the conflicts you have seen in the novel so far—internal and external (man vs. man, man vs. nature, man vs. animal, man vs. himself, man vs. society, present vs. future or vs. past).
2. Summarize in 3-4 sentences what has happened in each of these chapters.
3. Make a T-chart list of the pros and cons of keeping Natalie at home vs. an asylum. What are the consequences for each decision? Did they have other choices?

**Writing Options:**

1. Write about a time in which you had a difficult decision that would have long-lasting effects. What was the situation? What decisions did you have available to you? What did you decide? Now, looking back, do you believe it was the right one?
2. Write about a time in which you made a bad choice. What was the situation? What other choices could you have made? What were the consequences?

**Analysis for Discussion:**

1. What news does Moose have to tell his parents?

2. Why does Moose tell only his dad and not his mom?

3. Why is Mrs. Flanagan's behavior so erratic?

4. Name three solutions Natalie's mother has tried to 'cure' Natalie.