***Al Capone Does My Shirt* Literature Circles**

**Chapters 1-5**

**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:

2 opinion questions (FAT questions)

2 prediction questions (What do you think might happen?)

1 fact question (basic fact question from the novel)

**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 passage with an example of a simile, metaphor, or personification

1 foreshadowing

1 sad passage (melancholy)

1 of your choice

**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 4 interesting facts you learned from your source. Make connections to the novel.

Study: Alcatraz—Things to think about: its previous use, why it was chosen to be a high security prison, how the prison was run, people imprisoned there, or prisoners who escaped

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

**Character Sketcher**: Your job is to write down 3 character traits of **Moose**. 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 setting of the novel—give details of time and place. Find this place on a map so you understand the state and general location of the island.
2. 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).
3. Summarize in 3-4 sentences what has happened in each of these chapters.

**Writing Options:**

1. Write about a difficult change in your life that caused you frustration or pain. What was the change? How did you deal with it? What were the long-term results of this change?
2. Write about a memory that brings happy thoughts about a parent, grandparent, or family friend. The details may be small, but try to describe the memory and the person using little details.

**Analysis for Discussion:**

1. What evidence shows that Natalie feels that Moose is important in her life?

2. Why is it so quiet in the apartment?

3. Why does mother keep Natalie's age at ten?

4. How does Moose feel after the family leaves Natalie at the school?

5. How does the following metaphor help reveal Moose's feelings about his sister's condition? "I hate

being the brother of a stone."