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

**Chapters 26-30**

**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 compare/contrast question

1 cause/effect question

2 fact questions

1 prediction 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:

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

1 passage with personification, simile, or metaphors

1 passage that is surprising

**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: Robert Stroud, the “Birdman” of Alcatraz

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

**Character Sketcher**: Your job is to write down 3 character traits of **Natalie**. 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 that might have changed
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.
4. Listen to the following videos about Al Capone. What differences/similarities can you find in the information listed online and the information in the novel?

<http://www.history.com/topics/al-capone/videos#st-valentines-day-massacre>

<http://www.history.com/topics/al-capone/videos#the-many-moods-of-al-capone>

**Writing Option:**

Write an I Am poem for the character of Moose. Using the format on <http://home.jps.net/~gailhd/crossing/esperanza/poemformat.htm>, include the following somewhere in the poem’s lines:

* Information and thoughts about Moose's life before Alcatraz
* Information and thoughts about Moose’s life after he arrived in Alcatraz
* Information and thoughts about Moose's family
* Information and thoughts about his conflicting feelings about Natalie
* Information and thoughts about his conflicting feelings about his mother’s treatment of him
* His growth as a character
* His interests or sources of strength and encouragement

Scoring Guide: <http://home.jps.net/~gailhd/crossing/esperanza/scorepoem.htm>

**Analysis for Discussion:**

1. How does Piper find out about Al's mother visiting the island?

2. How does Mrs. Capone react to Rocky?

3. What happens to Mrs. Capone when she gets to the island?

4. Why doesn't Moose want Piper to find a convict ball for Scout?

5. Who is "105", and why does this person cause Moose so much anxiety?