

Literature Discussion Preparation

Name: _____

Choose two quotes or scenes that resonated with you while reading that you want to discuss with others.

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| Quote #1 | Thoughts, connections, observations, or predictions: |
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| Quote #2 | Thoughts, connections, observations, or predictions: |
| | |
| One observation about a character: (how they acted/reacted to an event or person, their motivations, how they have changed or grown, etc.) | |
| | |
| One thing new that I learned about my novel, after participating in the discussion group: | |
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Rubric: highlight, circle, or check, your participation

| Aspect | Not Yet Meeting Expectations | Minimally Meets Expectations | Meeting Expectations | Fully Meeting/Exceeding Expectations |
|--|--|---|--|---|
| PREPARATION -reading is done - prepared with assignment | -Has not read -Has not completed task / response | -Read text -Incomplete task / response | -Has done the reading -Prepared with materials | -Extended beyond role -Depth of preparation -Shows deep interest |
| LISTENING - positive body language -active listening skills | -Looking away -“Zoned out” -On cell phone | -Easily distracted -Makes attempts to show active listening | -Evidence of active listening skills -Open- minded | -Encourages others -Active listening -Asks for elaboration |
| PARTICIPATION - respects other people -encourages participation -takes turns and builds on ideas | -Does not maintain focus, off task -Distracts others -Inappropriate -Negative | -Not always respectful of others' contributions -Asks questions & listens to answers | -Respectful -Asks questions & listens to others -Encouraging | -Asks thought provoking questions -Worldly connections -Natural leadership -Enthusiastic |
| CONTENT - supports statements with detail and depth - cites textual evidence, and book is open | -Poor understanding -Unable to connect with the text | -Aware of basic concepts -Not connected to text -Unable to form opinion | -Has opinion – states it & supports it -Understands text and issues raised -Cites the text | -Evidence of deep level of understanding -Critical thinking -Worldly connections -Demonstrates empathy |

Name: _____

Directions: As you read, you are responsible for answering the following questions on a separate sheet of paper. Note that the questions are divided by parts; I would recommend doing them as you read so as to avoid doing them all at once and scrambling to find the answers. They are more or less in the order that they appear in within the novel.

Part 1

- 1) Who do you think Charlie is writing to? Are there certain age groups/people who listen better than others?
- 2) How did Charlie react to Michael's suicide?
- 3) Describe Charlie's family. What is his relationship with the various people in his family?
- 4) Describe the incident with Sean.
- 5) Describe the relationship between Charlie's sister and her boyfriend. Is this a healthy relationship?
- 6) Who is Nothing? What do you think the significance of this name is to Charlie?
- 7) Who is Sam? What is Charlie's immediate reaction to her?
- 8) Sam says that girls like guys who give them a "purpose." Do you agree with this statement?
- 9) Do you agree with Bill's statement, "We accept the love we think we deserve?"
- 10) What relationship does Charlie have with Bill? Is this a healthy student/teacher relationship?
- 11) What did Charlie see at the party at his house? What bothers him the most about recounting the experience?
- 12) Describe the feeling of being "infinite." Is it something you have ever experienced?
- 13) What does Charlie see at Bob's house? Was this event foreshadowed earlier in the novel?
- 14) What is a wallflower? Does Charlie fulfill your definition?

Part 2

- 1) Who is Mary Elizabeth?
- 2) Describe the relationship between Patrick and Brad.
- 3) What is the Rocky Horror Picture Show? How might this show/scene appeal to Charlie?
- 4) Charlie says, "Old pictures look very rugged and young, and the people in the photographs always seem a lot happier than you are." Do you agree with this statement?
- 5) What is the significance of the poem Charlie read aloud? Is there a connection to Michael or Charlie?
- 6) What presents was Charlie given by his friends? Do any stand out as being symbolic?
- 7) What is significance of the typewriter?
- 8) Charlie refers to the "bad place" where he used to go. What does this imply?
- 9) Does Charlie have problems at home? Explain.
- 10) What happened to his Aunt Helen? What was it particularly hard on Charlie? Describe their relationship.
- 11) Detail what happens to Charlie at the New Years Eve party.

Part 3

- 1) Charlie speaks of the "good" things that have begun happening to him. Explain them.
- 2) What happens to Charlie's sister? Do relationships grow out of turmoil?
- 3) Describe Charlie's relationship with Mary Elizabeth.
- 4) Evaluate this quote, "Everything can't be low self-esteem, can it?"
- 5) At this point Charlie has made many references to his Psychiatrist. What do you think he's suffering from (if anything)?
- 6) What did Charlie do at Craig's house? Was he right in doing this?

Part 4 - END

- 1) What is the significance of the little boy being lost and returned by the "older kid"?
- 2) Describe Charlie's people watching during his April 29th letter. How is this impacting his outlook?
- 3) Has Charlie regressed? Explain.
- 4) What happens with Brad and Patrick?
- 5) What happens between Charlie and Patrick?
- 6) What do we learn about Charlie's past? Does this answer Charlie's question of "what is wrong with me?"