

Expert Group Presentations

In looking at literature, it is often difficult to talk about the texts without discussing the authors, the authors as participants of historical events, as well as the historical events surrounding the text itself. And since not all of us share the same prior knowledge about literature, culture, and history, in order to prepare for the readings, you will divide into three groups that will produce and facilitate presentations and discussions for *Interpreter of Maladies* by Jhumpa Lahiri, *Bone* by Fae Mynne Ng, and *Rolling the R's* by R. Zamora Linmark.

You and your group will begin by building a rudimentary understanding of the literature by looking at the historical context surrounding the text and exploring the life of the text's author. Then, as we as a class begin to explore the text together, members of your group will help lead the discussions for the day. We will look to you, the presenting group, as the experts of the text.

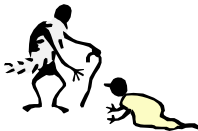
GROUP ROLES

For your group presentations, divide the following tasks among your 6 to 8 members.



Historian:

Explores the historical context of the selection, looking at both the time and setting that the selected chapters were written about. What social/historical/cultural circumstances were occurring at that particular time?



Biographer:

Investigates the life of the author, finding out information about the author's home, his or her family background, education, and other works published. Who and what are some of the influential people, events, anecdotes that may reveal something of the author's creative life? What else has the author published or written? Provide a bibliography of the author's other works. If you can find a picture of the author or copies of other works, you can present those as well.



Discussion Director:

Designs questions about the big ideas, posing insightful and thought-provoking inquiries for the rest of us to wrap our brains around.

**Summarizer:**

Conveys the gist and key points of the reading for that day.

**Literary Luminary:**

Selects and reads noteworthy passages to discuss.

**Connector:**

Links the selections to the outside world. What other texts have we read in class or have you read on your own that relate to the text being discussed?

Any of these group members can “jumpstart” the day’s discussion. Decide amongst yourselves who will fulfill what role; just make sure that your discussions cover each of the tasks listed above and, most importantly, matches up with the day’s assigned readings!

WRITTEN WORK

At the conclusion of each presentation, each person must submit an individual typed, 1- to 2-page outline that indicates his or her role in the discussion and contains his or her questions, summaries, noteworthy passages, and/or discussion topics.

DUE DATES

Refer to the course web page (<http://www.smccd.net/accounts/erpelol/Courses/spring06/lit265aa/assign.html>) for the dates of the discussions. Your written work will also be due the day of your presentation.

Have fun with these presentations. Remember, you’re the expert here. We look forward to your presentations and discussions! 😊