

Challenges of War Weaving Project

Create a strip of paper for our class literary weaving. To plan your paper strip, jot down ideas or quotes that may be usable as you read the historical fiction book. Pay attention to words and phrases, images, even colors that seem especially significant to the book. Then create a paper strip for your book as a means of prompting discussion about the book when you meet with your literature circle. Weave all paper strips together to create a literary weaving reflective of the challenges of war.

Your paper strip must include a written and visual response to the book: The written response needs to include a significant snippet from the book or key words or phrases. Be sure to include page numbers for quotes.

When making your visual response consider colors, images, shapes, symbols, and designs that seem representative or, or significant ideas, issues, themes in the book. LEAVE very little white space (unless white is especially significant).

Story Ray Project

In response to *The Giver*, collaborate to create a story arc; a chapter-by-chapter unfolding of Lois Lowry's novel. Everyone will be responsible for the creation of one visual ray, representing a selected chapter from the book. Your completed story ray should provide a strong sense of your chapter, with a focus on ideas, themes, characters, setting, mood, and tone. Your story rays will be used to spark class discussion also. We will connect the rays together and display them in the classroom.

To plan your story ray, read the entire book, write/sketch/web your initial response to the book, and then skim your selected chapter several times. As you read your chapter, pay attention to images, symbols, colors, and words or phrases and to sketch images, symbols and design possibilities. Then plan your story ray thinking about the following questions:

- How can I offer a visual representation of this chapter?
- What color(s) do I use for the background and for the images I choose to represent? Why are these colors significant to this chapter? What images (symbols or items) should I represent on this strip of paper? What's the significance of each? Should I repeat any images?
- What layout should I use to capture a strong sense of my chapter? Should I include words? A quote? A short phrase? If so, where do words belong on my story ray? Should I repeat them? If so, why?

TIPS: Leave little or no white space on your ray (unless white is essential to what you're creating). Avoid using colored pencils unless you can create bold colors. Consider using more than one medium and think creatively about what media you want to use (collage, torn paper, paint, pastels, mixed media, etc.)

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Adapted from Johnson, N.J. (1999). National Council of Teachers of English Conference. Denver Colorado.