



Novel Guide for Gifted and Advanced Readers



Notes for Implementing

- A. **Read the book yourself!** You may need to read it more than once to be able to probe student answers and to facilitate meaningful discussion.
- B. **Familiarize yourself with the questions in the guide.** Determine how you would answer the questions. Consider writing out your answers.
- C. **Think about how your students might answer the questions.** You will need to be ready for follow-up questions to extend critical thinking and move discussion/dialogue to a higher level.
- D. **Teach any skills students will need in order to accomplish the tasks included in the guides and during discussion.** These skills may include annotation of text, Socratic discussion, graphic organizers, student-developed open-ended/higher-order questions, and appropriate behaviors for participation in group discussion.

Procedures:

1. The novel guides are used with trade books in lieu of the grade-level basal. Gifted/advanced readers should have a minimum of two regularly scheduled reading instructional times per week of at least 20-30 minutes. These blocks of time are intended for teacher-facilitated discussion of the book and mini-lessons to develop deeper reading skills. Students should read the book in its entirety before discussion begins. During discussion, they are encouraged to re-read passages from the book as discussion progresses and use the text as evidence for comments and questions.
2. Students may read the novel in school and/or as homework. Allow a reasonable length of time for reading the book, depending on its length and other assigned reading activities. For example, a long book could be introduced on a Thursday or Friday with students given a full week for reading with discussion beginning on the following Thursday or Friday or even Monday of the following week. Shorter books may only need 2-4 days before discussion groups begin. During the days while students are reading their assigned book, teachers can teach/review skills students will need in order to be successful with the novel guide activities.