

## NDA3M Novel Study: *April Raintree*

The novel that we will read together in class is about a young person's journey to a personal discovery. It will be your responsibility to react to each section of the novel by writing reflective journal responses.

After completing the reflective journal responses, you will create and present a poem to the class, and write a novel review for a magazine. We will complete this novel study in stages:

**Stage 1 – Reflective Journal Responses** (Sept 23-Nov12)

**Stage 2 – Poetry Writing** (Nov 12-Nov 22)

**Stage 3 – Presentation** (Nov 25-26)

**Stage 4 – Novel Review** (Nov 29-Dec 11)

---

### Stage 1 – Reflective Journal Responses

- a) Select one passage per chapter.
- b) Write this phrase or sentence in your notebook, including the page #.
- c) Identify the theme(s) of the chapter.
- d) Complete your reflective journal response.

#### **\*We will go through the first one together.**

I have selected three passages for you. Choose one that appeals to you the most, and consider the questions that follow.

Passage #1:

*Memories. Some memories are elusive, fleeting, like butterflies that touch down and are free until caught. Others are haunting. You would rather forget them but they will not be forgotten. And some are always there. No matter where you are, they are there, too. -Pg 1*

Passage #2:

*To me, I imagined they were very rich and lived in big, beautiful houses. I wondered what their lives were like and I wished we could play with them. But they didn't care to play with Cheryl and Me. They just called us names and bullied us. – Pg 6*

Passage #3:

*Most of my misery, however, was caused by the separation from my parents. – Pg 10*

Questions to consider for reflection:

- What do you think the author means by the passage?
- What ideas, memories or thoughts does the statement bring to your awareness?
- How does the passage make you feel?
- Can you relate to what the author says? If so, write about it.

When you are identifying themes, issues and ideas for each chapter, think about:

- Society
- Living conditions
- Personal struggles
- History

**Your responses are to be handed in routinely for assessment. Make sure they are up-to-date!**

*All sections will be completed by Nov 12\**

## **Stage 2 – Poetry Writing - DUE: Nov 22**

1. Re-read your responses and select keywords, responses or thoughts you would like to use in your poem (highlight or write on a separate piece of paper). For each section you are required to select a minimum of one response or keyword, or a maximum of two.

Sections by chapter: 1, 2&3, 4&5, 6&7, 8&9, 10&11, 12-&13, 14&15, 16&17

2. Begin writing your poem with your selected keywords, responses or thoughts. It may be necessary to add words or to remove unnecessary words. **The entire poem is to be 15-30 lines long.**

The selection of your words allows you to communicate knowledge, thinking and reactions that you have become aware of as we read the novel.

## **Stage 3 – Presentation- DUE: Nov 26**

1. You will share your poem with the class. It should include a visual representation; perhaps an image derived for the novel.
2. Students in the class may ask you questions or comment about your poem.

## **Stage 4 – Novel Review – DUE: Dec 11**

1. Your task is to write a review of *April Raintree* for a magazine. Your audience includes people who may not know about some of the conflicts and challenges that First Nations communities have faced, and continue to face. Your job, is to artfully include this in your review.
2. **FORMAT: 1-2 pages: types, 1.5 spacing, 12 point font**
  - a) Title of the review to catch the reader’s attention
  - b) Introduction – characters, plot, conflicts and issues for First Nations communities that relate to the novel
  - c) Body of Review – how the conflicts were handled by the main character
  - d) Conclusion – your evaluation of the novel

\*Some class time will be provided weekly for completion of Novel Study stages. If you are absent, or choose to not take advantage of class time, you must make up time lost for homework.

**Rubrics for evaluation of stages will be given to you when we begin each stage.**