Socratic Seminar:

25 points

Tuesday, December 17, 2019

During Socratic Seminar, you have two essential questions that need to be addressed:

1. “Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim. Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented. Sometimes we must interfere. When human lives are endangered, when human dignity is in jeopardy, national borders and sensitivities become irrelevant. Wherever men and women are persecuted because of their race, religion, or political views, that place must – at that moment – become the center of the universe…And action is the only remedy to indifference, the most insidious danger of all.” -Elie Wiesel

**\*\*\*How does this quote relate to the novel *Tree Girl*?** (You may have to look up some vocabulary words to fully understand his meaning).

1. **\*\*\*What is the most important theme in the novel *Tree Girl*?**

Topics to Consider:

* Discuss what the quote means. Break it down. What is he encouraging people to do?
* Difference between a bystander and a victim.
* Should other countries intervene? How could they help? Pros and cons of intervention?
* Relation of Wiesel’s quote to the novel and the documentary, *Finding Oscar.*
* Discuss subjects that are important and then as a group, try to create theme statements that are important in the novel.
* Include evidence from the film and documentary to support your views.

Socratic Seminar Reminders:

* This is not a debate; it is a thoughtful discussion amongst your peers to increase your understanding of a topic.
* You need to be mature, respectful of differing opinions, and open-minded in order to do well.
* Do not raise your hand. When you sense a pause in the discussion, it is appropriate to speak.
* Be mindful of students who have not participated. Try to give at least three other students the chance to participate before you speak again.
* Use each other’s names. Respond to each other’s ideas and questions.
* Ask questions.
* Try to exhaust one topic before jumping on to the next.
* Do not be on your phone, or have your ear buds in. If you are caught, you will earn a zero. PERIOD.
* Try to include everyone.
* Do not engage in side conversations.
* Look at who is speaking, and be courteous.

Prep Sheet:

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| Important Points to Bring UP: |
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| Questions to Ask: |
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