

Name: _____

Date: _____

PRE-READING QUESTIONS – *MOCKINGBIRD*

Book Groups

JOURNAL

On your own, you will select one of the journal prompts below. On a separate sheet of paper, write your response to your selected prompt.

- (1) Write about a time when either you or someone you know has experienced loss. How did you/the person you know feel?
- (2) Write about a time when you had to “put yourself in someone else’s shoes.” How did this help you understand someone or their situation better?
- (3) Write about a place where you like to go that makes you feel safe. What about that space makes you feel this way? Describe the space in detail.
- (4) Write about a time when you experienced closure. What steps did you take to get to this point? How did you feel once you got there?

COVER ANALYSIS

As a group, you will analyze the cover of your novel. Then, you will make predictions about the text using your analysis. Write your responses on your journal piece of paper. These responses do NOT need to be in complete sentences; they can be in bullet-point or shorthand form.

- **COLORS**
 - Why do you think that these colors were used?
 - What might they represent?
- **IMAGES**
 - What images are used? What might they symbolize?
 - How are the images positioned? What might this positioning symbolize?
- **CHARACTER**
 - Why do you think the author chose not to put a character on the cover?
 - What about the cover gives you possible insight to characters in the book?
- **TITLE**
 - What role do you think “mockingbird” plays in the book?
 - Why is a “mockingbird” phonetically written out the way it is?
 - How do you think the term “mockingbird” will be important in the novel?

PASSAGE ANALYSIS

As a group, you will read the passage below. After, your group will discuss the passage questions. Write your responses on your journal piece of paper. These responses do NOT need to be in complete sentences; they can be in bullet-point or shorthand form.

CAITLIN, DAD SAYS. THE WHOLE town is upset by what happened. They want to help.

How?

They want to be with you. Talk to you. Take you places.

I don't want to be with them or talk to them or go places with them.

He sighs. They want to help you deal with life, Caitlin...without Devon.

I don't know what this means but the people come to our house. I wish I could hide in Devon's room but I'm not allowed in there now. Not since The Day Our Life Fell Apart and Dad slammed Devon's door shut and put his head against it and cried and said, No no no no no. So, I can't go to my hidey-hole in Devon's room anymore and I miss it.

I try to hide in my room and draw but Dad comes and gets me.

1. How does Caitlin feel about accepting help from others? How do you know? (Meaning, what words make you think this?)
2. From this short conversation between Caitlin and her father, what can you infer about their relationship?
3. What do you think "The Day Our Life Fell Apart" refers to?
4. In this scene, people come to the house to be with Caitlin and her father during this difficult time. Why do you think that Caitlin's immediate reaction is to hide from everyone?
5. Why do you think that Caitlin's dad does not allow her to go in Devon's room anymore?

RESEARCH

As a group, you will research the questions below. You are not just guessing" answers. Instead, you are using online resources to find information about each question. Write your responses on your journal piece of paper. These responses do NOT need to be in complete sentences; they can be in bullet-point or shorthand form.

1. What is "Asperger's Syndrome"?
2. What is the difference between Asperger's Syndrome and Autism?
3. What are common struggles people with Asperger's have with social interaction?
4. What is the definition of "empathy"? What are reasons why someone with Asperger's might struggle with empathy?
5. How common is it for someone to have Asperger's Syndrome?

