

Community Member Feedback for Book Discussions 2011

What insights have you gained from the discussion?

- “Some of these teens are readers.”
- “The difference between the way a 16 year old sees the world and a 50+ year old.”
- “The disappointment that was felt by the ending of the book. The sadness was poignant. My perspective that it was more real and powerful even though it was sad. Life is sad sometimes.”
- “That a different style of writing can have an impact on how you understand a book.”
- “I was uneasy about discussion prostitution with HS students I didn’t know. But found it was easier than I had anticipated and they were able to discuss difficult issues with composure.”

How prepared were your group members?

- “All had read the book and were touched by it.”
- “The facilitator did great.”
- “Well prepared; everyone knew the story and had opinions.”
- “Two young women did not say a word.”
- “It took a while for confidence to build to the point that people were participating fully.”

What did you enjoy?

- “Great to hear student voices and openness to discussion.”
- “Talking with students.”
- “Each person had their own journey and responded to different stimuli in this very complex novel.”
- “Loved hearing a viewpoint from a young person.”

What changes should we make?

- “Limit the number of YA choices.”
- “Hand out an agenda or talking points.”
- “I liked the set up and the space. Maybe assign certain aspects of the book to individuals who have done a bit of research on it and could add background information.”
- “If there was a way to help these students get through the book prior to discussion, it would have aided their participation. Maybe audio?”
- “Encourage community members to bring their questions for discussion.”
- “I think for some members who struggled with finding entry into the discussion, perhaps some prep questions based on their experience would be helpful.”
- “You might think about book and movie adaptation.”
- “Students needn’t be so tentative about offering insights and opinions.”