

## **Student Feedback for Community Book Discussions 2011**

### **1. What was the quality of your group's discussion overall?**

- "Everyone was engaged and offered unique comments that added to the conversation. A few people disagreed and we had a mini-debate going on. A few of us looked up passages in the book that we thought were interesting or powerful."
- "We spent a long time on just one question. There was a lot on what people had to say on some questions."
- "The discussion was led mostly by adults."
- "The use of the wiki was important"
- "People had several opinions of their own as well as brought outside references and facts to support their ideas."
- "It opened my eyes to things I had missed while reading the book."

### **What was the most interesting/insightful idea you came to as a group?**

- "The sadness of Sameh's position (Palestinian youth who decides to blow up a bus primarily because the act will mean his family will be provided for) as a desperate person...he actually had a heart."
- "The main aspect of this book was its formatting."
- "How your life is full of making decisions that you will have to live with and hopefully not regret."
- "How escapism defines the book."
- "Nepal and how [a woman's] lack of voice and submission is a cause of her vulnerability."

### **What did you think of this project overall? What worked well? What should be different in the future?**

- "I enjoyed being able to choose a book...I also like how we really didn't do much with the book in class (analysis)-- we just talked about it."
- "This project was a success. I enjoyed it a lot."
- "I would have liked another theme. 'Immigrants' as a topic is a difficult read. Otherwise it was well set up."
- "I liked this project and how we were able to pick our books. In the future we should have smaller groups."
- "I think we should have structured the conversation a little more."
- "I like discussion better than anything else. It allows us to use what we are interested about the book in our own way. It lets us see what others think about the novel."
- "This project is a lot more analytical than an essay."
- "It worked well to mix different students from different classes."
- "I liked it. In Spain, in my high school, we don't do this because students don't have any interest in reading. A project like this motivates young reading."
- "I really don't like discussions. I think we should read it and take a quiz after."
- "I didn't really like how the adults were from the community. I like when teachers are the adults."
- "It didn't work to not have the teacher as part of our group because no one could control the students. Some people didn't read the book, or they barely contributed to the wiki, but they

still had a good grade because some people had to do their work. I can't make my group work if they don't want to. You should evaluate the individual work."

- "I liked the idea, I hated all the books."