***Jazz* Panel Discussion**

**IB English 3**

**Summative Assessment: 40 points**

For this activity, we will have rotating panel discussions using the OPTIONAL final questions as prompts. **You will serve on a panel that will be randomly assigned**. **Prepare** for the discussion by having notes on the questions prepared with text evidence, including page numbers, as support. Each panel has been assigned a set of questions to prepare and the discussion should focus on one or more of the assigned questions, or a relevant question raised by a group member.

Discussion Questions and Groups

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|  | Period 2 |
| Panel 1  12/11 | Max, Arthur, Andrew, Sarah, Sydney A., Mia D., |
| Panel 2  12/11 | Anna, Jacob, Gavin, Neil, Justin, Sophia |
| Panel 3  12/15 | Janiya, Abby, Nolan, Mia C., Levi, Nathan |
| Panel 4  12/15 | Mason H., Damiana, DJ, Mason P., Kate, Kiarra |
| Panel 5  12/16 | Ella, Desiree, Sidney S., Johnessa, Alesha |

Panel 1

* Compare and contrast the characters of Violet and Dorcas. How are their lives different? How are the characters the same?
* How is Violet described in the initial portion of the novel? Do you think this is a fair description of Violet's character? Why or why not?
* How do you describe the development of the relationship between Alice and Violet? Why do you think Violet is so determined to befriend Alice? What benefits do both women derive from the relationship?
* How do the stories of Dorcas's death differ as they are told by Joe, Dorcas, and Felice? What aspects are the same? How do the differences in perception accentuate the difference between these three characters?

Panel 2

* Describe the significance of Malvonne's presence in Morrison's novel. What does the character of Malvonne add to the plot? What is the story like if Morrison does not include such an antagonist?
* What impact do you think Alice Manfred has on Dorcas? Do you think Dorcas is the same sort of person if she is not being raised by Alice? Why or why not?
* Compare and contrast the characters of Joe and Acton. Are they similar in any way, or are they mostly different? What does Dorcas find appealing in each man? How does her relationship with each man change throughout the novel?

Panel 3

* Describe the significance of Golden Gray in Violet's life. How does he affect her childhood as well as her marriage with Joe?
* Why does Violet decide she never wants to have children? What impact does this have on her marriage? How does her desire to have children change throughout the book and why?
* The mothers of Violet, Joe, and Dorcas die tragically, abandon their children, or kill themselves. Why do you think Morrison includes this similarity between these three characters? What does the loss of one's mother symbolize? Do you think it effectively unites the characters, or does it pull them apart?
* What is significant about Dorcas's clothespin dolls? What role do they play throughout Dorcas's life? Why do you think Morrison chooses this particular symbol?

Panel 4

* What is the symbolism of the birds? What events lead up to their release, and how is Violet different afterward?
* Felice has a strong attachment to the ring Dorcas is wearing when she is buried. What does the ring signify, and why is it so important to Felice? What greater concepts are initiated in the story about the ring?
* The title of the work is *Jazz*. Why does Morrison choose such a title for this book? What is the significance of jazz music in this novel?

Panel 5

* Describe the relationship between True Belle and Vera Louise Gray. Do the events they share bring them together or pull them apart? How does each of their relationships with Golden Gray compare to the other?
* How does Morrison introduce the topic of sexism in her book? How do sexist attitudes impact the lives of both female and male characters?
* How is racism explored and conveyed in Morrison's work? Why do you think Morrison writes about it in this way?

The Panel Discussion

* You will have 15 minutes in your panel discussion. Please **turn on your camera and mic** for the discussion.
* You may need to briefly summarize an event or moment in the text, but you should not rely on the summary as the main part of the discussion.
* You will be graded individually on your ability to keep the conversation going and contributing appropriately to the discussion. **To earn an A,** you will need to **make 5 (3 for 2nd period) unique, relevant, and accurate contributions** to the conversation directly connected to the question of focus with text evidence.
* **Listen** and **integrate** your comments into the flow of the discussion. Do not simply wait for an opening to put in your 2 cents. A natural conversation takes turns and changes topics, but you may lose points if you blatantly switch topics merely to get your point made. You may also lose points if you are rude to group members or repeatedly interrupt others.
* You are one of several panelists, so you should be aware that others on your panel my make the same observations and connections you have. Be prepared to **build on** what your fellow panelists say and do not repeat the same ideas.