**Character vs. Society Unit Journal and Discussion Prompts**

**For most of the journal entries, there are multiple prompts, so choose *one* question to answer in a well-developed paragraph. (One prompt appears twice; you may only answer it once.)**

**Group Discussion 1:**

* What are society’s values and beliefs? How do you know?
* Why does society have those values and beliefs?
* How do society’s values and beliefs affect people’s daily lives?
* Are society’s values and beliefs fair and moral? Do they favor a certain group of people? If so, how?
* What are the characters’ values and beliefs? Do the characters share the same values and beliefs as society or do the characters have different ones? Why or why not?
* What is life like for characters who don’t share society’s values and beliefs?

**Journal entry 1:** **Setting/Society’s Values and Beliefs**

1. Think about the setting of your book. What are society’s values and beliefs? How do you know? Are these beliefs and values fair and moral?
2. Explain which of society’s values and beliefs create conflicts for the main character. How does that value or belief create those conflicts?
3. Compare and contrast society’s values and beliefs with a character’s. Do they share the same beliefs or do they have different ones. Why?

**Group Discussion 2**

* What are the characters’ values and beliefs? How strongly do they feel about those values and beliefs? Try ranking them in order of importance.
* Are the characters’ values and beliefs creating any conflicts for him/her? If so, how?
* How are society’s values and beliefs creating conflicts for the main characters?
* Are you noticing any changes in a character’s values or beliefs? What has happened to cause that change?
* Which characters have the same values and beliefs? Which values and beliefs do they share? Why do they share these values and beliefs? How does this affect their relationship?
* Which characters have different values and beliefs? How are their values and beliefs different? Why are they different? How does this affect their relationship?

**Journal entry 2:** **Character’s Values and Beliefs**

1. Choose a character. How are his/her values and beliefs changing? Why are they changing? Include evidence.
2. Out of all the main character’s values and beliefs, which are MOST important to the main character? How do you know? Include evidence.
3. Compare and contrast society’s values and beliefs with a character’s. Do they share the same beliefs, or do they have different ones. Why?
4. Compare and contrast two different characters’ values and beliefs. Do they have the same values and beliefs or different ones? How does this affect their relationship?

**Group Discussion 3**

* Which characters are challenging society’s values and beliefs? How are they challenging those values and beliefs?
* What are the consequences of challenging society’s values and beliefs? Both positive and negative?
* Do you agree with a character’s decision to challenge society’s values and beliefs? Why or why not? Is the character doing the right thing? Are they going about it the right way or should they do something different?
* Which characters are not willing to challenge society’s values and beliefs? Why aren’t they challenging them?
* What are the consequences of not challenging those values and beliefs? Both positive and negative?
* Do you agree with a character’s decision not to challenge society’s values and beliefs? Why or why not?

**Journal entry 3:** **Challenging Values and Beliefs**

1. Choose a character. How is the character challenging society’s values or beliefs? Explain how the characters’ actions challenge those values and beliefs.
2. Choose a character. Why is the character *not* challenging society’s values or beliefs? Include evidence.

**Group Discussion 4**

* Describe all the ways characters challenged society’s values and beliefs. Which way was the best? Why?
* What motivated those characters to challenge society’s values and beliefs?

**Journal entry 4:** **Motivation**

1. Choose a character and consider which of society’s values or beliefs he/she challenged and how she/he challenged that value or belief. What motivated this character to challenge this value or belief? What event, feelings or values motivated the character? (Hint: Look back at all your other journal entries. Which parts of those entries will you need to revise and use in this entry? If you answered journal entry A from last time, it will be especially important to think about which parts of that journal entry you will need to revise and include.)