Moonshower

2020/2030 Book Club Project

Moonshower / 2020/2030
Project 1: Book Club Project **Due _____**

For this project, we will all be reflecting upon and/or reviewing the seminal work by Kathleen Woodiwiss, *The Flame and the Flower,* published in 1972. You will answer required questions as well as your own chosen questions (from a list I provide) and write about the novel based on these questions. The project should give a description of the novel but should not be simply a plot summary. Make sure that you give a balanced assessment supported with good evidence from the text. This project is worth 100 points.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- Length: 3-4 double spaced pages—at least 900-1000 words
- Follow MLA-style for heading, title and page numbers (see my MLA guidelines under Content: Soup to Nuts) TNR, 12-pt. font, 1" margins. Do NOT include a title page with your essay. Do not justify right margins.
- Use parenthetical in-text citations and include a Works Cited page citing the novel.

CONSIDERATIONS

The Main Idea: This paper is a REFLECTION (not a summary report), much as questions you would answer in a book club meeting are your reflections about certain aspects of a book. You are giving your opinions about the questions asked and chosen. **Quote from the text!** Use these key questions to guide you:

- **INTRO:** Have you begun your review with an attention-grabbing opening paragraph?
- Have you thoroughly answered the two required questions and three self-chosen questions? Be sure to put the questions in the text so I know what you are responding to (see examples).
- Have you noted specific elements of the novel that support your judgment with regard to the questions you have chosen to answer? Have you described these clearly and/or used brief quotes from the novel to illustrate your points? Have you documented your quotes with parenthetical in-text citations?
- Have you qualified your judgment with both positive and negative aspects of the text?
- Have you shown yourself to be a credible source?
- **CONCLUSION:** Have you concluded your review with a recommendation for your reader? Have you clearly indicated your judgment of the novel's quality?
- Did you write in the literary present tense (Heather says, the narrator explains, Brandon tells Heather)?

Plan of Attack:

- Write an introductory paragraph describing the pertinent details of the novel (author, title, year published, importance of the novel, and a brief plot summary).
- Answer TWO required questions and THREE questions you will choose from a list I give you. You may use the questions as headers or write headers for each question, but delineate them in some way.
- End with a conclusion **that gives a recommendation** to other possible readers.
- Add a Works Cited page with Woodiwiss and any other source you quote from.
- SO: Seven elements: Intro, Five Questions, Conclusion, WC Page

Details: Details are important in this type of writing. I do not want too much plot summary (only enough to alert the reader to important aspects of the selection you are reviewing), but do provide enough details that you give the reader some "color." Make certain that the details in your essay are there for a reason—that they add up to a significant point. Remember—be specific!

Writer's Voice and Audience: Consider your classmates and instructor the direct audience of the essay. We value insightful writing and a formal voice, but an academic voice for such writing can be relaxed.

BOOK CLUB!

Project 1 / Moonshower / 2020 / 2030

Required Questions:

1. Using what you have learned from class lectures and your readings in Regis, Rodale, and Wendell and Tan, discuss why Kathleen Woodiwiss' novel, *The Flame and the Flower*, is such a seminal book in the history of the romance novel. Use lots of details and show me that you understand its importance.
2. Discuss what you believe are two to three main themes or messages you feel are present in the book and how the story illustrates those ideas.

Choose THREE questions from the list below.

Ultimate Book Club Discussion Question List

General book club questions:

- What kind of reader would most enjoy this book?
- How much did you know about this book before picking it up? What surprised you the most about the book?
- How thought-provoking did you find the book? Did the book change your opinion about anything, or did you learn something new from it? If so, what?
- How did the book make you feel? Did it evoke any emotions? Make you laugh, cry, or cringe?
- How, if at all, did this book relate to your own life? Did it evoke any memories or connections for you?
- Did you highlight or bookmark any passages from the book? Did you have a favorite quote or quotes? If so, share which and why?
- What were some of your favorite scenes from the book? Why did they stand out to you?
- What was the most challenging or difficult part of the book for you to read or understand? How did you overcome it?
- How would you adapt this book into a movie? Who would you cast in the leading roles?
- If you could improve one thing about the book, what would it be?

General book club discussion questions – Writing style:

- Did you find the author's writing style easy to read or hard to read? How long did it take you to get into the book?
- How did the author use language, tone, structure, imagery, dialogue, etc. to tell the story and create an effect on the reader?
- Did the author use any literary devices, techniques, or styles to enhance their writing, and to what effect?
- Discuss the author's use of symbols, metaphors, or imagery to convey their ideas or emotions.
- What did you like or dislike about the author's writing style and why?
- How did the author's writing style enhance or detract from the story or the message of the book?
- How would you describe the author's writing style in a few words?
- Did the author's style and voice suit the genre and tone of the book?

General book club discussion questions – Themes:

- How did the book make you think or feel about a certain topic or issue?
- What did you learn from the book or what did it teach you about yourself or others?
- How did the book challenge or change your perspective or opinion on something?
- How relevant or relatable are the themes or messages of the book to your own life, or to society today?

General fiction book club questions:

- Who was your favorite character and why?
- Which character did you find the most complex or intriguing and why?
- How did the main character(s) change or grow throughout the story?
- How did the secondary characters impact or influence the main character(s) or story?
- Which character did you relate to or empathize with the most and why?
- Which character did you dislike or disagree with the most and why?
- Are there any characters you wish you could have given advice to? What would you tell them?
- What do you think happens to the characters after the novel concludes?
- How did the author create conflict and tension in the book? What was the main conflict or problem in the story and how was it resolved?
- How did the author keep you interested or surprised throughout the story?
- What was the most memorable or shocking scene or twist in the story and why?
- What was the most satisfying or disappointing part of the story and why?
- How did you feel about the ending? Was it satisfying or did you want more?

Historical Fiction book club questions:

- How did the author blend historical facts and fiction in this book? Did you find the book accurate and authentic?
- How did the author portray the historical setting and period of this book? Did you learn anything new or interesting about the time and place of the story?
- Did the author use any historical sources or references in this book? Did you find them helpful and credible?
- Did this book challenge or change your perspective on any historical events or figures? Did it make you want to learn more about them?
- How did this book relate to your own life experiences or interests in the present day?
- If you could travel back in time to the historical setting and period of this book, what would you do or see?

Romance book club questions:

- Was the romance believable to you? Why or why not?
- How did you feel about the main couple's chemistry and compatibility? Did you root for them or not?
- What did you think of the main conflict or obstacle that kept the couple apart?Was it realistic or contrived?
- How did the setting and time period of the novel affect the romance? Did it add to the atmosphere or create challenges for the characters?
- How did the author balance the romance with other elements such as humor, suspense, drama, or social commentary?
- How did the secondary characters contribute to the story and the romance?Did you have a favorite or least favorite side character?
- What do you think happens to the main couple after the novel ends?
- How did the novel explore themes such as love, trust, communication, family, identity, or sexuality?
- How did you like the level of heat in the novel?