English 1A Fall 2012 **Book Club Progress Reports, Halfway Mark**

**Overview**: The disadvantage of having so many books going at once is that I can’t give you questions specific to each book. Still, you will get more out of your reading is you are reading with questions in mind, so I have chosen a few that should relate to all of the books. Of course, I am hoping you will all have your book finished well before the presentations, but for this you should be *at least* halfway through.

The progress report should answer the questions below and must be typed. They must be handed in on time the day they are due to receive credit (20 points), and they must be in your own words. Each individual in the club is to write his/her own response to the book. The first question can probably be answered in a couple of sentences; the others deserve a paragraph each.

Note: Each individual in the club is to write his/her own response to the book, though of course you can discuss them. I don’t want to see any overlap: everyone in the book club finds a *different* most compelling character/incident/idea, a different passage for an in-class essay, and a different book review.

This will require some texting/emailing among you, so keep in touch.  **Due: T 10/30**

**Questions**:

1. Describe **one character/incident/idea** that you find interesting. Cite at least one particular passage and give page numbers where this character/incident/idea is described / discussed. What is interesting about this to you? What does it add to the story?
2. Find another passage in your book (different from the one above) that you think would make a good **prompt for an in-class essay**. There has to be an argument at the heart of it, some statement that people could have different views about. 1) Tell me where I can find it (as described above), and why it seems interesting and meaty enough to be a prompt. 2) Tell me (in a sentence or two) what you think about it, what your view on the arguable claim would be.
3. All of the books contain an element of **ethnography** (writing about culture), and in some books it is the central task, to present the author’s discoveries about a particular cultural group, often by examining how that group relates with the dominant culture, and how the group is defined against the dominant culture. Discuss this element of your book. What group(s) are being examined? What have you learned about it (or them) so far? What is distinctive/interesting/surprising about this group, either for you, for the author, or both.