English 1B spring 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 by the end of spring break, but for this you should be *at least* halfway through.

The progress report **due the first class after spring break** 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.

**Questions**:

1. How does your book fit in with your research project? What research questions does it address? (It would be helpful here to briefly state your thesis question, as well.)
2. What character, incident, or idea do you find the most compelling, and why? Please refer to at least one specific passage where this character/incident/idea appears and give me the page number(s).
3. Help me set up the last in-class essay. Choose a passage from your book (different from the one you discuss above) that would make an interesting prompt for an in-class essay, assuming the person taking the essay has read the book. It should contain something arguable that the student could respond to, and it should be an idea that is central to the book. Explain why you think this is a good passage. Please type out the passage and give me the page number.
4. Find a good (professional) review of your book, print it out, and attach it to this report. Then summarize it briefly and comment. Do you agree or disagree with the reviewer’s assessment? Note: by “professional,” I mean a review by someone who gets paid to review books, not a blogger. Some of these will be more widely reviewed than others, but all should have enough for everyone in the book club to find a different one. Please check with each other to be sure there is no overlap. You can simply google the book’s title and “review.”