Tips for Incorporating the Common Reading into Courses

For more teaching materials, resources, and assignments, visit http://www.uncw.edu/commonreading

1. **Discussion** – Discuss the themes of the book and/or the actual text
   - Examples of discussion questions and themes can be found at http://www.uncw.edu/commonreading/forfacultystaff.html
   - Ask students what they enjoyed about the book and what they did not.
   - Why do you think the book has been a best-seller?
   - What social / global issues does the author raise through the story?
   - Have students bring in their own questions and lead the discussion

2. **Writing** – Have students write an essay on a discussion question or a particular theme. Numerous topic suggestions are available on the Synergy website.

3. **Creative Interpretations** – Have students do a creative representation of or response to the book and its themes. This could allow for visual art, music, film, skits, dance, poetry, creative writing, and more.

4. **Research** – Have students complete research projects related to the book’s themes.

5. **Presentations** – Students can present on topics related to book and build communication skills.

6. **Current Events** – Have students connect the themes and topics of the book to current events and bring in articles for a presentation or discussion.

7. **Guest Speakers** – Invite faculty or staff to class who might have expertise in related areas, such as healthcare, economics, computer technology, or whatever topic may be related to your class.

8. **Events** – Require or encourage students to attend a Synergy event(s). For a schedule, visit http://www.uncw.edu/commonreading/index.html. Require a follow up assignment such as a reflective paper or presentation. There will be a wide range of activities including discussion groups, films, a speaker series, and more. Provide as an extra credit opportunity.

9. **Further Readings and Films** – Assign readings or show films related to the text and its topics. A list of ideas is provided on the Synergy website.

10. **Personal Reflection** - Have students consider their own life in relation to the book and its topics / themes (i.e., coming of age, choices, transitions, views on topics, etc.).

11. **Service Project** – Get students involved in designing and implementing service projects related to the book - on campus, in the community, nationally or internationally.

www.uncw.edu/commonreading
Teaching and Reading Resources - Event List - Program Info
Questions? Contact Gina Garera at garerag@uncw.edu or 910-962-3921