

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