**Universal Truths**

Theme Tracking Assignment

The need for **FAMILY** The need for **COMMUNITY**

The instinct to **SURVIVE** The **FRAGILITY** of **LIFE**

The loss of **INNOCENCE** The importance of **MUSIC**

The role of **HOPE & FAITH** The role of **ADDICTION**

The importance of **STORYTELLING** The role of **MEMORY** and **DREAMS**

The significance of **FEAR** The creation of **IDENTITY**

In a small group, you will be responsible for becoming “the expert tracker” of one of the predominant themes from the memoir you are studying.

**How to track your theme:**

**Passages/quotes** – In this section you must record a significant passage or quote from the text that captures the essence of the theme

**Speaker** – Identify the speaker of the narrative or the dialogue

**Context** – Explain what is happening in the plot before, during, and after your passage/quote.

**Significance** – Explain the importance of your passage/quote. What makes it significant to the development of the theme, the plot, Ishmael’s journey, etc.

**Connection to the world** – Explain the universality of this quote. What makes this theme relevant to anyone, anywhere in the world?

**How to create your chart:**

The division of the chart will follow the 5 turning points (Innocence Lost, Civilian Escape, A Soldiers Turmoil, Fight for Redemption, Repatriation) in Ishmael’s story. For each turning point you will:

* Record five passages/quotations that capture the essence of the theme (25 passages total).
* Make one connection to the outside world for each turning point (5 universal connections total).
* At the end of each turning point chart, the students are responsible for creating three reading questions for the class using the ‘Q chart’ for higher level thinking (15 reading questions total).

**What to DO with all this work?**

* Submit a completed expert chart (for evaluation)
* Create a ONE-page handout (double sided) with most important highlights from your entire theme tracking chart. This highlight chart will be photocopied as a resource for your peers (for evaluation).
* Lead class discussions as we progress based on the reading questions that are created (for evaluation).

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| UNIVERSAL TRUTH / THEME: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | | |
|  | | |
| Passage, Speaker, Page # | Context | Significance |
| 1. |  |  |
| 2. |  |  |
| 3. |  |  |
| 4. |  |  |
| 5. |  |  |
| Universal Connection to the world: | | |
| Critical Reading Questions:  1  2.  3. | | |