

### “Profiles in Courage” Study Guide

*Instructions:* Read the entire study guide before you begin so that you know what to look for as you are reading. Answers should be written in paragraph form, and the question should be restated in your answer. You must type your responses and bring in a hard copy on the first day of class. Your assignment should be at least four to five typed, double-spaced pages in 12-point font. Make sure to include your full name on the assignment.

1. For each of the eight historical figures, John Quincy Adams, Daniel Webster, Thomas H. Benton, Sam Houston, Edmund Ross, Lucius Q. C. Lamar, George Norris, and Robert A. Taft, write a one-two paragraph biography summarizing what you learned about their lives from this book.
2. For the same eight historical characters, explain in detail what it was that made this individual a “profile in courage”.
3. Select the individual whom you believe demonstrated the most courage. Provide carefully thought out reasons to support your choice.

\* **NOTE:** Please see the tips on the next page regarding close reading. I will expect that you will put these into practice as you read or develop your own system.

*Instructions:* The following page contains some suggestions on how to read your novel this summer. I will not check to see if you have done this, but I will expect that you are engaging in some sort of active reading activity. This is a good habit to form, and you will be well prepared for the in-class essay assessment when we return to school in the fall.

## Close Reading: How to Make Notes and Gather Information<sup>1</sup>

Close reading is gathering materials from a text, a kind of research-as-you-go. The benefits are many: a closely read chapter can be perused quickly before class in preparation for a reading quiz; a book that has been marked is easier to find examples for as you prepare your essay; finally, the very act of marking up a text enables the reader to more closely focus on it and retain key ideas and passages. Students unable to mark up a text because it doesn't belong to them can use sticky notes instead. None of the following ideas are written in stone, students needing a starting point can use this as a guideline.

- Highlight or underline passages that reveal crucial information, that show changes in character, or that trace the development of character. You might mark them with a (C) for character or (T) for theme.
- Make notations in the margins as you react to passages that are unique or noteworthy.
- Place a question mark (?) in the margin if you don't understand what the passage means.
- Put an exclamation mark (!) in the margin to indicate something surprising or unusual.
- Consider using these symbols: (\*) emphasizes a statement already underlined or denotes a recurring idea; (+) indicates something you want to remember.
- Use sticky notes for marking major ideas, for cross-referencing ideas, or for easy access to specific pages in the text. Use a variety of colors for different purposes.
- A smiling face shows that you agree or like an idea; a frowning face shows disagreement or dislike.
- Circle key words or phrases.
- Underline vocabulary words you don't know. Jot down a brief definition in the margin, especially if the word is critical to your understanding of the passage.
- Other notes or ideas: