

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

The Good Earth, Day 1



Key Paragraph, p. 9

“Wang Lung had suffered that she must not be pretty. It would be something to have a pretty wife that other men would congratulate him upon having. His father seeing his mutinous face, had cried out at him,

‘And what will we do with a pretty woman? We must have a woman who will tend the house and bear children as she works in the fields, and will a pretty woman do those things...no not a pretty woman in our house. We are farmers’” (p. 9).

Writing Prompt

Wang Lung knew that marrying a pretty woman would be bad for him and his father. He knew that a pretty woman would not help him in the fields or around the house. She would be focused on things other than hard work. Wang Lung and his father believe that a woman’s duties should be focused on serving her husband and his family.

Write an argumentative paragraph arguing that Wang Lung is either acting fairly or unfairly toward his future wife. Is a marriage without love or friendship just? How do you feel about the expectation for women to be subservient? Are Wang Lung’s intentions honorable? Do you think that it is fair for the woman involved?

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

The Good Earth, Day 2



Key Paragraph, p. 22

“Together this man and this woman stood before the gods of the fields. The woman watched the ends for the incense redden and turn grey. When the ash grew heavy she leaned over and with her forefinger she pushed the head of ash away. Then as though fearful for what she had done, she looked quickly at Wang Lung, her eyes dumb. But, there was something he liked in her movement. It was as though she felt the incense belonged to them both; it was a moment of marriage” (p. 22).

Writing Prompt

When we think of marriage, we think of a wonderful ceremony, large groups of people dressed up, and a wonderful celebration with food and drink. O-lan and Wang Lung did not have a formal wedding; however, the author describes their marriage.

Write a paragraph in which you define and argue in defense of your own explanation of what marriage is. Be detailed in your explanation, using various sources to support your answer.

Can you be married without a formal ceremony? What is the difference between a marriage and a wedding? Fifty percent of Americans who marry ultimately get divorced. Do you think the divorce rate would lower if we focused on marriage rather than on weddings? Why? Upload your paragraph to an online forum (Google Docs, blog, etc.) and share the link to your work with your classmates.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

The Good Earth, Day 3



Key Paragraph, p. 31

“...The earth lay rich and dark, and fell apart lightly under the points of their hoes. Sometimes they turned up a bit of brick, a splinter of wood. It was nothing. Some time, in some age, bodies of men and women had been buried there, houses had stood there, had fallen, and gone back to the earth. So would also their house, some time, return into the earth, their bodies also. Each had his turn at this earth...” (p. 31).

Writing Prompt

The Chinese believe that the earth is made of elements and they respect the balance of these elements. Think about the Chinese elements: earth, fire, water, wood, metal. The author describes the earth and how all things return to it. Wang Lung realizes that death and loss are natural parts of life. It is clear that Wang Lung respects the earth and all that comes from it. Why do you think it is important for Wang Lung to respect the earth and the elements?

Write a paragraph that argues for the importance of the natural elements in the lives of the Chinese. Additionally, reflect on the role of these elements in our own lives, especially in this modern society. How can we increase respect for the earth in our everyday lives? Use primary and secondary sources to support your argument. What element do you think is most important to you and your life? Why? Why do you think the earth element is important to Wang Lung?

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

The Good Earth, Day 4



Key Paragraph, p. 52

“...And then as he exalted he was smitten with fear. What foolish thing was he doing, walking like this under an open sky, with a beautiful man-child for any evil spirit passing by to see! He opened his coat hastily and thrust the child’s head into his bosom and he said in a loud voice,

‘What a pity our child is female whom no one else could want and covered with smallpox as well! Let us pray it may die’” (p. 52).

Writing Prompt

Wang Lung is a hard working man who has an excellent business sense, as well as the ability to save and work with the earth. He has much wisdom; however, he still believes in the evil spirits and is worried that if they see his son, they will bring him bad luck. His superstitions show his lack of education. In many ways, he is stuck between two different worlds: one in which he has much sense, and on in which he bows to superstitions.

Write an argumentative paragraph in which you claim that it is better to follow *either* reason *or* cultural traditions. What are the pros and cons to each set of beliefs? Provide a counterargument in your paragraph, but also provide support for your argument by using both textual evidence and person personal experience. Do you have any superstitions? Is it better to following your instincts or act logically? Add this paragraph to the online forum of your choice (Google Docs, blog, etc.).

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

The Good Earth, Day 5



Key Paragraph, p. 64

“Why do you have no control over her, then? Why do you not keep her decently in the house and make her sweep and clean and cook and make clothes for the family?”

But one cannot say these things to an older generation. He remained silent, therefore, and hoed closely about a small plant and waited” (p. 64).

Writing Prompt

Wang Lung is frustrated with his uncle and his uncle’s family. Wang Lung is doing everything he can to find success. He works hard, his family works hard, he saves, and he takes calculated risks. His uncle does the exact opposite. He wants to speak plainly and tell his uncle to handle his children and get to work; however, because of pride and respect, he cannot. This shows how much restraint Wang Lung possesses.

Remember that Justice requires Restraint – to others, myself, and the planet. Do you believe Wang Lung is acting justly to himself when he exercises restraint and assists his uncle? **Write a paragraph arguing in favor or against Wang Lung’s actions. Is he acting with justice to others? Is he showing himself, O-lan and his children justice? How can he balance his opinions with respect and restraint? Upload your completed product to your online portfolio.**

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

The Good Earth, Day 6



Key Paragraph, p. 79

“They cannot take the land from me. The labor of my body and the fruit of the fields I have put into that which cannot be taken away. If I had silver, they would have taken it. If I had bought with the silver to store it, they would have taken it all. I have the land still, and it is mine” (p. 79).

Writing Prompt

There are certain things that cannot be taken away from a person. In this situation, Wang Lung knows that no one can steal his land, although many have stolen silver and other belongings from the village. Why is land something that is not easily stripped from its owner? Think of the things you possess and know. What about you cannot be taken from you?

Pick something you have which, like the land, cannot be taken away from you.

Write an argumentative paragraph built off the statement “I have put myself into _____, which cannot be taken away.” Provide reasons why the thing you chose is not easily taken away. Why is that so?

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

The Good Earth, Day 7



Key Paragraph, p. 92

“The land we will not sell, surely,’ she said, ‘else when we return from the south we shall have nothing to feed us. But we will sell the table and the two beds and the bedding and the four benches and even the cauldron from the stove. But the rakes and the hoe and the plow we will not sell, nor the land” (p. 92).

Writing Prompt

In this passage, we see how O-lan deals with the less-than-favorable situation she encounters. A predominantly silent and meek character, she voices her opinions clearly and is adamant about keeping the land, to which the family will return after they journey to the south.

Recall a time in which you defended a person or cause that is near to your heart.

Write an argumentative paragraph explaining how and why you made such a speech, and why this particular person/situation is so important to you. How can your support spread justice? What makes this cause worthy of your time and attention? How can you spread your passion with others?

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

The Good Earth, Day 8



Key Paragraph, p. 111

“I have ploughed and I have sown seed and I have reaped harvest and this have I filled my rice bowl. And I have beyond this begotten a son and a son’s sons.’

And with this he trusted like a child that now he would be fed, seeing that he had a son and grandsons” (p. 111).

Writing Prompt

When the family starts to begin their new life in the south, Wang Lung’s father refuses to beg. Not only is he too proud, but he is also confident that his son’s family will provide for him.

Write a paragraph in which your respond to Wang Lung’s father’s decision. Either support or reject the idea that elders should not have to work to earn a living. Since he has worked diligently as a farmer in his youth, do you believe that it is just for the grandfather to rest in his old age and let others take care of him? What is the most just response?

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

The Good Earth, Day 9



Key Paragraph, p. 126

“No and not forever. When the rich are too rich there are ways and the poor are too poor there are ways. Last winter we sold two girls and endured and this winter if this one my woman bears is a girl we will sell again. One slave I have kept—the first. The others it is better to sell than kill, although there are those who prefer to kill them before they draw breath. This is one of the ways the poor are too poor. When the rich are too rich there is a way, and if I am not mistaken, that way will come soon.’ He nodded and pointed with the stem of his pipe to the wall behind them. ‘Have you seen inside that wall?’” (p. 126).

Writing Prompt

Wang Lung and another city dweller are discussing the issues of rich and poor in the city. The man believes that the rich are too rich and the poor are too poor. What do you think this man is trying to tell Wang Lung? What factors contribute to being poor and rich? What can the poor do to change their circumstances? Should the rich be punished for working hard and having wealth? This is a complex social justice issue that affects many people and countries today.

Write a paragraph from Wang Lung’s perspective, arguing either for or against the social and economic climate that exists within the city. What could you, as Wang Lung, do to change your circumstances? Do choices affect people’s future and ability to gain wealth or is it luck? What responsibility do others have to support the poor?

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

The Good Earth, Day 10



Key Paragraph, p. 129

“But Wang Lung thought of his land and pondered this way and that, with the sickened heart of the deferred hope how could he get back to it. He belonged, not to this scum which clung to the rich man’s walls; nor did he belong to the rich man’s house. He belonged to the land and he could not live with any fullness until he felt the land under his feet and followed a plow in the springtime and bore a scythe in his hands at harvest” (p. 129).

Writing Prompt

Because he was a landowner, Wang Lung knows that he does not belong to the poor men; however, because he still has a low income, he knows he does not belong with the rich men. However, he knows he belongs to the land and needs to get back to it in order to be happy again. He also knows that he will never have enough to eat until he is caring for himself and his family.

Wang Lung is uncomfortable in this section because he feels like an outsider.

Write a paragraph explaining what you think Wang Lung should do in order to feel included. Argue your opinions using evidence from the text. Also, draw on personal experience. Can you recall a time when you felt like an outsider? How did you react to the situation? What changed in you? Were you able to convince others to be unique and stand up for themselves? Be as descriptive as possible.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

The Good Earth, Day 11



Key Paragraph, p. 145

“Only Wang Lung in the confusion took nothing. He had never in all his life taken what belonged to another, and not at once could he do it. So he stood in the middle of the crowd at first, dragged this way and that, and then coming somewhat to his senses, he pushed with perseverance toward the edge and found himself at last on the fringe of the multitude and here he stood, swept along slightly as little whirlpools are at the edge of a pool of current; but still was able to see where he was” (p. 145).

Writing Prompt

Wang is caught in the chaos and confusion of the masses at the Great House. Everyone around him is looting and stealing. Wang has never stolen from anyone; he has always worked hard for his own money and possessions, which makes him very uncomfortable with this situation. Instead of choosing to leave, he stays and watches from the side. Why do you think Wang stays with the townspeople when he doesn't believe in or understand what is going on?

Write an argumentative paragraph that claims that, in this situation, stealing/looting is either the right or wrong choice for Wang Lung to make. What are the consequences of his actions? How does the mob mentality cause people who normally have high ideals to participate in negative behaviors?

As you write consider recent news stories or historical times that encourage mob thinking. You may use the internet to help provide research and further your argument.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

The Good Earth, Day 12



Key Paragraph, p. 163

“But all of this was not a sudden thing. All during the lifetime of the Old Lord and of his father the fall of this house has been coming. In the last generation the lords ceased to see the land and took the moneys the agents gave them and spent it carelessly as water. And in their generations the strength of the land has gone from them and bit by bit the land has begun to go also” (p. 163).

Writing Prompt

The servant tells Wang Lung about the fall of the Great House, and of the carelessness of the lords who “spent [money] as carelessly as water.” The servant notes that after they became disconnected from the land, it lost lots power and the Great House fell.

Do you believe that the more money and riches that people acquire, the more complicated their lives become? **Write an argumentative paragraph that argues either for or against Wang Lung’s acquisition of riches and the ways in which he conducts business. Would his life be less complicated with less money? Were things better or worse before he purchased the extra land? What problems do you see arising as he becomes more and more disconnected from the land?**

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

The Good Earth, Day 13



Key Paragraph, p. 172

“...He was greatly hampered by his lack of book knowledge and of the knowledge of the meaning of characters written upon paper with a camel’s hair brush and ink. Moreover, it was a shame to him when he was in a grain shop where grain was bought and sold again, that when a contract was written for so much of wheat or rice, he must say humbly to the haughty dealers in town,

‘Sir, and will you read it for me, for I am too stupid’” (p. 172).

Writing Prompt

Due to the fact Wang Lung cannot read or write, he is in jeopardy of having others take advantage of him, especially now that is acquiring more and more land. He understands the value of education and decides to send his oldest child to school. How do you think different cultures view education?

Pretend you are Wang Lung. Write an argumentative letter to the teachers in the school in town providing your reasoning and defense for sending your sons to school. Why do you think it’s important for them to have an education? Should children have a say in the matter of when/where/if they are educated? How can having an education help or hinder your sons?

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

The Good Earth, Day 14



Key Paragraph, p. 197

“But O-lan looked at him in astonishment and did not know what to make from all of this, except that one day after staring at him for a long time as they ate rice at noon, she said heavily, ‘there is that about you which makes me think of one of the lords in the great house’” (p. 197).

Writing Prompt

Wang Lung is changing. He used to be a man of integrity, devoted to the land, honest in his dealings, and fair to his family. Now that he has gained wealth, he has begun to act like a man in a Great House. What does this say about who Wang has become? Do you think that O-lan sees and knows more than she lets on?

From O-lan’s perspective write a letter to Wang Lung arguing against his new interests and behaviors. What consequences do his family face because of his lust and greed? Why do you believe he is acting unjustly to you and your children? What is the ideal way that Wang Lung should act? How does it exemplify justice?

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

The Good Earth, Day 15



Key Paragraph, p. 209

“During all this time he said nothing to anyone except to scold the children if they were filthy at their noses or to roar out at O-lan that she had not brushed her hair for three days or more, so that at last one morning O-lan burst into tears and wept aloud, as he had never seen her weep before, even when they starved, or at any other time. He said harshly, therefore,

‘Now what, woman? Cannot I say comb out your horses tail of hair without any trouble over it?’

But she answered nothing except to say over and over, moaning,
‘I have borne you sons—I have borne you sons’” (p. 209).

Writing Prompt

O-lan has suffered much in this story and is now being treated very unjustly by Wang Lung. She has made a prosperous home, supported and worked with her husband, and most importantly—she has given him sons. She has asked for very little in return. Now, Wang Lung is getting greedy, angry, and takes on another wife. O-lan doesn’t understand what she has done to deserve such cruelty.

Pretend you are O-lan. In 2-3 paragraphs, write a letter to Wang Lung arguing against the way he is treating you. In this letter, claim that you deserve better treatment in the home. Be sure to explain how much you’ve sacrificed in the marriage, and place emphasis on the fact that you’ve given Wang Lung sons.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

The Good Earth, Day 16



Key Paragraph, p. 225

“Now I will not have my children cursed, no and not by anyone and not even my poor fool, and not by you who have no son in your womb for any man...Now go out, my son and daughter, and come no more to this woman’s court, for she does not love you and if she does not love you she does not love your father, either” (p. 225).

Writing Prompt

Wang Lung stands up for his children and is angered by Lotus’ disdain towards them. He realizes that she truly does not love him because of the way in which she treats his children.

Pretend you are Wang Lung. **Write an argumentative letter addressed to Lotus; provide reasoning as to why you are angered by her actions. How is her treatment of your children, especially the ‘poor fool,’ unjust?**

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

The Good Earth, Day 17



Key Paragraph p. 229

“Now you see that your lord is but a farmer and you are a farmer’s wife!”
Then she cried out with spirit,
‘A farmer’s wife I am not, be what you like!’
And he laughed again and went out from her easily.
He ate his evening rice all stained as he was with the earth and unwilling he washed himself and even before he slept. And washing his body he laughed again, for he washed it for no woman, and he laughed because he was free” (p. 229).

Writing Prompt

Wang Lung has made his recent decisions based on other people’s opinions. He feels somewhat trapped after taking Lotus (and Cuckoo) into his house. Lotus is finally seeing Wang Lung as the person that he really is: a farmer. Think about the things that you love that set your mind and spirit free (for instance, a sport, music, a hobby).

Write a 1-2 argumentative paragraphs claiming that this activity is the most freeing and enjoyable activity that there is. Why does this activity give you freedom? Where did you learn it? Why is it special to you? What do you feel like when you are participating? How has it positively impacted your life? Be as clear and concise as possible as you write.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

The Good Earth, Day 18



Key Paragraph, p. 251-252

“Nevertheless, the locusts did this for him, for seven days he thought of nothing but his land, and he was healed of his troubles and his fears, and he said to himself calmly,

‘Well, and every man has his troubles and I must make shift to live with mine as I can, and my uncle is older than I and he will die, and three years must pass as they can with my son and I shall not kill myself” (p. 251-252).

Writing Prompt

After Wang Lung fights off the locusts, he realizes that he can deal with the dramatic nature of his family as long as he has the land to support him. Through the land, he is given a fresh perspective. He realizes that he can only control himself, and everything else will work itself out.

Write an argumentative paragraph supporting Wang Lung’s change in behavior and attitude. How is the ‘new’ Wang Lung acting with justice? How was the ‘old’ Wang Lung unjust? Defend your position with facts and idea’s from the text.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

The Good Earth, Day 19



Key Paragraph p. 274

“But there was no sudden dying of life in O-lan’s body. She was scarcely past the middle of her span of years, and her life would not easily pass from her body, so that she lay dying on her bed for many months. All through the long months of winter she lay dying upon her bed and for the first time Wang Lung and his children knew what she had been in the house, how she had made comfort for them and they had not known it” (p. 274).

Writing Prompt

O-lan has worked hard to ensure that her family was taken care of. For some time she knew she was ill - “she had fire in her vitals.” Why didn’t she stop to talk to Wang Lung about her condition? Why didn’t she stop to teach the children how to care for themselves? What is the injustice and downfall of a parent not teaching their child how to take care of themselves? Does this still happen today?

Write a paragraph arguing that O-lan’s refusal to acknowledge her illness is unjust to herself and to others. Why didn’t she stop to teach the children how to care for themselves? How is this an injustice to them? What is the downfall of a parent not teaching children how to take care of themselves? Does this still happen today? You may use outside research or personal examples to support your argument.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

The Good Earth, Day 20



Key Paragraph, p. 285

“Now I am content and this thing in me may do as it will. My son, look after your father and your grandfather, and my daughter, look to your husband and your husband’s father, and his grandfather and the poor fool in the court, there is she. And you have no duty to any other” (p. 285).

Writing Prompt

O-lan gave her final instructions to her son and daughter-in-law. It was important to her to know that the family was taken care of. It was also clear that she did not want them to care for Lotus.

This quarter’s theme is Justice—*Justice demands I not say or do some things to myself, any other person, or the planet. The actions I take, and the decisions I make, must respect the rights of all.*

Do you believe that O-lan’s death reflects justice? Do others care for her in a just manner? **Write an argumentative paragraph that, while during her life she was not treated fairly, in death O-lan is shown justice. Use examples from the text to support your argument. How can you apply this theme to modern-day social issues? What is better: an unjust life with a fair death, or a fair life with an unjust end?**

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

The Good Earth, Day 21



Key Paragraph, p. 295-296

"Now Wang Lung was not so poor as he wished to seem, he had good silver hidden away in the walls, where his son slept with his wife, though his son and daughter-in-law did not know it, and he had good silver and even some gold hidden in a jar at the bottom of the lake under his nearest field, and he had some hidden among the roots of the bamboos, and he had some grains from the year before which he had not sold at market" (p. 295-296).

Writing Prompt

Wang Lung had lost everything once before. And since then he planned for the hard time, always saved, and did not spend much money. His house was built on high ground so it did not flood. Because of this he saved, and was able to care and provide for his family. However, the villagers were not so lucky and were angry at Wang Lung. He did his best to hide his wealth to continue to save what he had. Do you think this situation is fair and just or do you think that Wang Lung should be forced to help others?

Choose a position. Do you think Wang Lung should be forced to give to others in the village or do you think he should be left alone to care for his family and save as needed?

Write 1-2 paragraphs arguing for or against Wang Lung's intervention in the lives of the people in the village. Should he help others who failed to assist him in his time of need? Or is it better to leave them to their own devices and simply help his own family?

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

The Good Earth, Day 22



Key Paragraph, p. 313

“Now Wang Lung was the more astonished when he heard this talk, for here was a young man whose life he had not seen, even though it was his own son. It was not such blood as this that ran in his own lusty body when he was young, not in the body of his eldest son; yet he admired the wisdom of the young man” (p. 313).

Writing Prompt

Wang Lung missed much of his children’s’ childhoods because he was preoccupied with tending to the land and keeping the family fed. He speaks with his second son, hears of his wishes for a bride, and is amazed at the wisdom he holds. How do you think second son got this wise?

Write a paragraph arguing for either wisdom or knowledge. What is the difference between the two? In your opinion, which one is superior? Where do you think the second son’s wisdom came from? Would you rather be wise or have knowledge? Explain.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

The Good Earth, Day 23



Key Paragraph, p. 327

“When he was dead Wang Lung leaned over him and he wept as he had not when his own father had died, and he ordered a coffin of the best kind, and he hired priest for the funeral and he walked behind wearing white mourning. He made his eldest son, even, wear white bands on his ankles as though a relative had died” (p. 327).

Writing Prompt

Ching is an understated character in the novel but carries much value as a friend and confidant to Wang Lung. Nerveless, Wang Lung reacts strongly to his death. Ching became a true brother to Wang Lung and was an indispensable part of his life.

Pretend you are Wang Lung. **Write an argumentative paragraph in which you defend and argue in favor of his character. What traits did he possess that were admirable? Why did you value his presence in your life?**

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

The Good Earth, Day 24



Key Paragraph, p. 329

“Now to Wang Lung it seemed there was nothing left to be done in his condition, and now he could sit in his chair in the sun beside his fool and he could smoke his water pipe and be at peace since his land was tended and the money from it coming into his hand without care from him” (p. 329).

Writing Prompt

Wang Lung is getting old and is finally able to rest and enjoy his time. He has worked hard and saved and planned so he could be comfortable.

Write an argumentative paragraph arguing whether or not you believe that Wang Lung has lived a good life. Is the work he has accomplished fulfilling? Do you think he is satisfied with the way things have gone? If you were in his situation and have lived his life, how would you feel?

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

The Good Earth, Day 25



Key Paragraph, p. 343

“And to him war was a thing like earth and sky and waster and why it was no one knew but only that it was” (p. 343).

Writing Prompt

Wang Lung does not know what war is and has managed to live his life without being affected by war.

Write an argumentative paragraph defending your definition of war. Why would you define it that way? Use information from the novel or secondary sources to make your definition as complete and thorough as possible.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

The Good Earth, Day 26



Key Paragraph, p. 352

“There is to be a war such as we have not heard of—there is to be a revolution and fighting war such as never was, and our land is to be free!” (p. 352).

Writing Prompt

Wang Lung’s son wants to leave to fight a war for freedom. Wang Lung feels that they are free. What do you think; are his sons truly fighting for their freedom by joining the army?

Write 1-2 argumentative paragraphs defending freedom. Explain why this object/idea is important to you. Do you support Wang Lung’s sons’ decisions?

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

The Good Earth, Day 27



Key Paragraph, p. 376

“I can scarcely kill an insect and how could I take this life? No, my lord, but I will take this poor fool for mine because you have been kind to me—kinder than any in all my life, and the only kind one” (p. 376).

Writing Prompt

Wang Lung wants to make sure the poor fool is cared for once he dies. He asks Pear Blossom to kill her. She knows that she will not be able to but is willing to care for her as long as she can. She makes this promise because Wang Lung has shown her kindness and justice.

Do you believe that Wang Lung's decision for his daughter reflects kindness and justice? **Write an argumentative letter either supporting or arguing against Wang Lung's decision regarding the poor fool. Remember, justice requires restraint. How is Wang Lung restraining himself? How is he not restraining himself? What would you have done in his situation?**

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

The Good Earth, Final Writing Product/Oral Report



Final Writing Product

Your essay should follow basic essay format: Introduction, middle, and a conclusion, written in 5 paragraph format.

- **Write a 5-paragraph essay that argues for or against Wang Lung's lifestyle choices in the Good Earth. Your essay should contain a thesis statement, contain support material from primary and secondary sources, and support significant ideas about the character.**
- Using your Open Mind Portraits, Character Interaction Charts, and Character Profile Chart make observations about Wang Lung's character. Be prepared to defend and explain your observations
- **Were the decisions he made in the first part of his life just? Did his later life choices reflect justice?**
- Is there a quote that supports your argument? Make sure you cite the source appropriately.

Oral Product

[Refer to pages 353-360 for additional information as you plan your speech] What is this referring to? Does this still apply?

How-To Speech

Your speech will be 5-7 minutes arguing or defending a viewpoint to the class. Your purpose of your speech is to persuade and present an argument to the audience.

Your topic MUST be school appropriate and cannot contain any information that is illegal, immoral, or indecent. Choose wisely.

- Select a speech topic—choose something you feel passionately about since you will be supporting and defending it in your argumentative speech.
- Organize your speech in a manner that best achieves those purposes (argument, reasons, support, counterarguments, conclusion)
- Ensure the beginning, body, and conclusion reinforce the argument;
- Project sincerity and conviction to control your nervousness;
- Try not to use notes
- Provide visual aids as needed.

Your speech should be clearly organized.

Have a clear and concise Introduction, an informative body, and interesting conclusion.

Make your audience want more.

Example

Introduction: *After hearing my speech today the audience will learn why I believe vegetables are the healthiest snack possible.* Keep your topic narrow and focused.

Body: The body of your speech should include the steps needed to take to prepare your snack—step by step.

Conclusion: *By making wise choices as you consider your next snack you will feel better, have more energy, and a positive self-image.*

Character Based Literacy Program Lesson Plan

The Good Earth, Speech Rubric



Title: _____

Name: _____

Date _____

*The speaker is to prepare a speech that has a clear general purpose; to argue and defend a viewpoint to the audience. The speech is to be organized in a manner that best achieves this purpose. The beginning, body, and conclusion should all tie into this purpose. The speaker is to project sincerity and conviction and strive not to use notes. Speaker should have a visual aid but it is not required. **Speaker is to speak on a topic that is school appropriate.***

How To Speech

5	=	Excellent
4	=	Above Average for the speakers level
3	=	Satisfactory
2	=	Could improve
1	=	Needs Attention

• The general purpose of the speech was clear	5	4	3	2	1
• The specific purpose of the speech was clear	5	4	3	2	1
• The organization supported the purpose	5	4	3	2	1
• The main points and material was relevant	5	4	3	2	1
• The speaker achieved the specific purpose	5	4	3	2	1
• The speaker appeared confident and sincere	5	4	3	2	1
• Speaker did not rely on notes	5	4	3	2	1
• The beginning, middle, and conclusion reinforced the specific purpose.	5	4	3	2	1

What could the speaker have done to improve and make the speech more effective?

What did you like about the presentation?