

### Pre-Reading Research Project Guiding Question:

What social, cultural, or historical forces might shape the struggles and identities of the characters in my novel?

### Project Overview

Before reading your literature circle novel, you will complete an individual research project to explore the world behind the story. You will create a 5–7 slide slideshow that investigates the historical, cultural, and social forces that may shape the characters' identities, challenges, and choices.

#### Slide 1 – Title & Book Introduction

- Book title, author, cover image
- Predict what the story might reveal about diversity or oppression (2–4 sentences)

#### Slide 2 – Setting & Time Period

- Where and when the story takes place
- Events or issues that connect to identity, conflict, or inequality

#### Slide 3 – Cultural or Historical Background

Choose one topic (gender expectations, segregation, migration, colonization, class division, censorship, etc.)

- 2–3 researched facts
- 1 relevant image
- 1–2 sentences: Why this topic matters to the story

#### Slide 4 – Voices & Representation

- Who might be silenced or underrepresented?
- What resistance or empowerment existed?

#### Slide 5 – Why It Matters Today

- Connect the topic to a modern issue
- Reflection: How might this story help readers see the world differently?

#### Slide 6–7 – References (MLA)

- Minimum two credible sources (one online, one database/print)

### Assessment Focus

Inquiry & Research: Uses credible sources; gathers accurate background info

Analysis: Connects historical/cultural forces to themes

Communication: Clear slides, visuals, concise text

Independent Work: Completes all research/design individually