

INDEPENDENT READING "CONVERSATIONS"

As you know, your Independent Reading book for March is one that was recommended to you by someone else. You should have already begun reading the book so that this Friday, March 15th, you can submit the first of three written "conversations" between you and your "recommender." You must finish reading the book by the end of Passover Break (Wednesday, April 3rd) in order to fulfill all three parts of this assignment

The due dates for the three written "conversations" are as follows:

- CONVERSATION #1 due Friday, March 15th
- CONVERSATION #2 due Friday, March 22nd
- CONVERSATION #3 due Friday, April 5th

What do these written "conversations" involve?

You must engage in a conversation with the person who recommended you the book three different times throughout your reading. The conversation can be via email, phone, skype, or in person. Each of these conversations must take place a few days before the due date so you have enough time to organize your work into an easy-to-read document. If you spoke via phone, skype, or in person you will need to leave extra time to transcribe (write out) your conversation.

Who starts these "conversations"?

YOU!

What kind of topics should I discuss with my "recommender"?

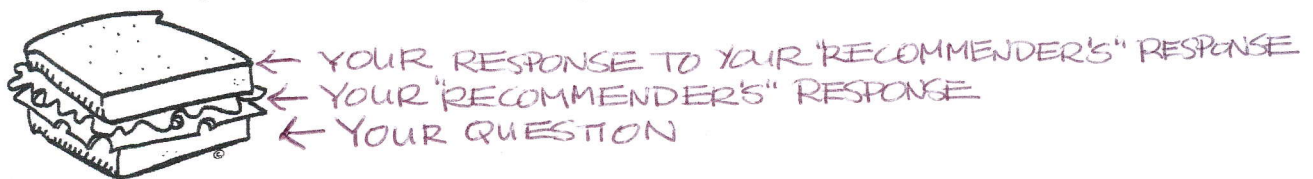
As long as the book is at the center of your conversation, it is up to you as to what topics you want to bring up with the person who recommended the book to you. For example, you could choose to talk about an interesting character, a surprising incident, the author's writing style, something you learned, similarities between this book and another book, what you think of the ending of the book... really, it's up to you! You just want to be sure that you pose a topic that is general enough that even if your "recommender" read the book a while ago, he or she can still weigh in.

What is the structure of these "conversations"?

The minimum requirement is a "conversation sandwich." You are responsible for the two pieces of bread and your "recommender" is responsible for the filling. Of course, the most nutritional sandwiches are those that use hearty, whole-grain breads.

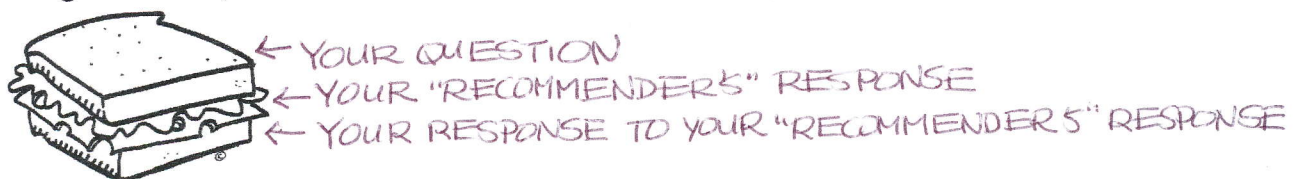
Therefore, don't just ask a question (that would be like a flimsy piece of white bread with no nutritional value whatsoever) but rather set up your question by stating some of your own observations about a topic related to the book and then invite your "recommender" to share his or her own opinions about this same topic. Those opinions will make up the sandwich's insides; if your "recommender" is skimpy with information, encourage him or her to elaborate and "beef" things up a bit. Then it's your turn to put a piece of bread on the whole thing by commenting on what your "recommender" said and/or sharing your additional views about the subject. Keep in mind that some of the best sandwiches are double or triple deckers! Don't shy away from follow-up questions.

- If you are communicating **via email**, your "conversation sandwich" will go from bottom to top and will look something like this:



In order to conserve paper, feel free to eliminate extra spacing and other unnecessary information such as signature lines when printing out your email.

- If you are transcribing a conversation that you had **via phone, skype, or person**, you will have to write down as accurately as possible what was said by both you and the "recommender." In this case, your "conversation sandwich" will go from top to bottom and will look something like this:



- And if you end up asking lots more questions and getting lots more answers, definitely include it all in your assignment. In this case your "conversation sandwich" might look more like this:

