

## **What Is the What: *One Book, One Philadelphia Share***

How teachers can access the student response blog for to *What Is the What*.

<http://onebookshare.blogspot.com>

*There are several ways students can participate:*

- They can **post their own work**. Material that could be posted includes: reflections about the book, personal essays or narratives, creative writing inspired by the book, non-written work: drawings, photographs, audio files... To do this they will need a **login** and **password**, arranged by the teacher.
- They can **comment on work already posted**. For this they don't need a login – they can type their comments directly on the site. There are tips for how to phrase comments provided on the main page.
- They can **comment on a “reader response” post**. To help jumpstart the blog, I have posted a few writing prompts. Students can reflect on these ideas and leave short comments.

*How to set up a login and password:*

1. Set up a g-mail address (a.k.a. a google account) and password at <http://gmail.google.com>. Make the name something that relates to your school, like “onebookgermantown.”
2. E-mail me via this new address at [onebookadmin@gmail.com](mailto:onebookadmin@gmail.com) asking for access to the one book blog.
3. I will make your google account an author of the blog. Students can then all log into <http://www.blogger.com> with that account and post their material.
4. If you're worried about students sharing one login, you can make them each create a unique google account. However, the process of getting access will take longer, as they will each have to e-mail the administrator in order to gain access. Another safeguard is to change the password on the group account once everyone is finished with their posting.

*Different ways to use the blog inside and outside of your classroom:*

Access to computers is obviously a big obstacle—access to a computer lab (or students willing to complete activities on their own time) is ideal, but some of these activities could also be completed with one or a few classroom computers.

- Have students treat the blog like a “gallery” to be browsed. Have students pick a favorite response, and all comment on that blog.
- Use the blog as a virtual workshop: have each student post once, and make at least one (or two, or three) comments on the work of their classmates.
- Have the entire class produce one visual piece – the single post can be made by the teacher.
- Have students create an ensemble work – scenes from different chapters of the book, or reflections on each main character.
- Students writing long essays? Have them choose a highlight and post that.
- No time to create responses? Use a writing activity from the lesson guide (students write about what keeps them up in the night, students write about whether they can relate to young Achak).

***A word on posting material:***

- The one book blog is a place for students to experience the incredible work being produced by students all around Philadelphia. Students should be proud of the content they choose to share!
- Material should be signed with a students' first name, grade level, and school.
- There are no formal restrictions for what can be posted on the blog, and students are encouraged to match the honesty and earnestness present in *What is the What*. However, the website is intended as a learning tool for any high school classroom, and only material appropriate for this venue should be posted. Any concerns or complaints about content should be directed towards [onebookadmin@gmail.com](mailto:onebookadmin@gmail.com).

***A word on comments:***

- Students should be respectful of the works that they view and choose to comment on.
- Comments should be signed with a students' first name, grade level, and school.
- Comments are posted to the website automatically, with a filter for spam but not for content. If this arrangement proves problematic, due to inappropriate comments left either by students or other visitors, the policy will be revisited. (I can set the site so comments have to be approved by the administrator, but this will lead to anywhere from slight to major delays in posting, which defeats the interactive nature of the blog.)