**Theme Group 2 Identity**

**If we take the topic of “identity”, we need to make a THEME statement about what this book says about identity. Use the questions below and develop an understanding of the theme.**

**Plan a way to teach the class about the concept of identity and how it is being used in the book.**

**Your teaching should be both interesting and detailed so that the class could write an essay about this character and the theme idea**

Discussion questions

1. Which of the following statements are true or false or partly correct?

Misha has no real identity.

Misha is a creation of other people’s stories about him

Misha learns he cannot be what other people say he is.

Misha learns through experience who he is.

1. Take each statement and explain what it means.
2. If you agree or disagree with the statement say what you read that gave you this idea about the character
3. What things does Misha learn about himself? (Explain what he learns, where he learns it and what the author’s message about this is for the reader.)
4. How does Misha’s identity change through the story?
5. How does his “identity” – chosen or given- influence what happens to him? What does this tell us of the main ideas in the novel? In connection with this, discuss Uncle Shepsel’s efforts to give up his identity as a Jew. How is this related to survival?
6. What gives him a true identity at the end of the novel?
7. Look at all the names he is given : Stopthief, a runt, a Jew, Gypsy named Misha Pilsudski, a Filthy son of Abraham,an angel, Misha Milgrom, Jack Milgrom, Poppynoodle. What do these names reveal to us?

Quotes that could be useful

“Thanks to Uri, in a cellar beneath a barbershop somewhere in Warsaw, Poland, in autumn of the year 1939, I was born, you might say.”

Find other quotes

Think of **five key points** you wish people to understand or know

Have evidence or be able to show people where to find **evidence** to support these points

You will organise a way to teach the class about your ideas.

It must be more than TELL the class what you know. Try to find ways of introducing the key points that involves them and is engaging.

You must think of a **class activity** to go with your presentation.

You can create a powerpoint/ use posters or tasks like creating shapes or cutout dolls etc or mix and match tasks. Be creative.