The Main Character Questionnaire

Preparation

- Overhead transparency of “Main Character Questionnaire”
- Many photocopies of “Main Character Questionnaire”
- Wall poster of Margaret Banning quotation
- Wall poster of Virginia Woolf quotation
- Wall poster of John Irving quotation
- Extra-fine-point permanent marker
**Main Character Questionnaire**

1. What’s your name?
2. How old are you?
3. What’s the problem you’re facing?
4. What’s your family background?
5. Where do you live?
6. What do you like to do?
7. What’s different about you?
8. What do you care about?
9. What do you fear?
10. What are your dreams?
11. Who are the important people in your life?
12. What are the important things in your life?
13. How will you change through confronting your problem? Possibilities:
14. What will you understand about yourself and your world at the end of the story? Possibilities:
“Fiction is not a dream. Nor is it guesswork. It is imagining based on facts, and the facts must be accurate or the work of imagining will not stand up.”

– Margaret Banning
“Fiction is like a spider’s web, attached ever so lightly perhaps, but still attached to life at all four corners.”

– Virginia Woolf
“I believe you have constructive accidents en route through a novel only because you mapped a clear way. If you have confidence that you have a clear direction to take, you always have confidence to explore other ways . . . The more you know about a book, the freer you can be to fool around. The less you know, the tighter you get.”

— John Irving