Literature Circle Role Sheet

**Theme Connector**

**Name: Aaron Su Book: #famous**

**Seminar Date: January 6, 2021 Pages Read: 71-143**

Your job is to consider three big ideas presented in the novel so far.

Ask yourself: why did the author write this book and what were they trying to say to the readers?

Begin by brainstorming **three big ideas** that the novel addresses. For each big idea, I would like you to write a paragraph explaining what comment you think the author is making. In your paragraphs, you will need to make connections between the text and world. Think carefully about your big ideas to create insightful theme connections.

Big Idea #1:

**Cyberbullying is a major issue among teenagers**

I think that the author wanted to state that cyberbullying is affecting the mental integrity of teenagers. In the book, we see that Rachel was being cyberbullied online because of her post about Kyle. An example of this is when Rachel stated: “Besides, who cares about people so devastatingly shallow that they spend their free time trolling strangers over the internet? Or pulling mean-girl stunts so cliché I wouldn’t even put them in a play? I’d never cared what people thought of me before, why start now?” (79). Luckily, Rachel does not care about the mean comments left on her posts. However, there are many instances of teenagers committing suicide or self-harm because of these hate comments. Cyberbullying is a very hard problem to tackle since it does not happen in the real world so no adult would know. Therefore, I think that the author is trying to spread awareness about cyberbullying and hate-speech.

Big Idea #2:

**Information on social media can quickly spread**

In the book, #famous, Kyle becomes popular because of the picture that Rachel took of him. In the second section of the book, we see that Kyle was called to a famous show, the Laura Show, just because of that picture. One such example in the modern day, is when Donald Trump tweets about facts that contradicts with other government officials. People could have believed that what he is saying is true before it is proven to be inaccurate information. The author has given a minor example of the consequences of information spreading on social media. The dangers of misinformation spreading could be endless and might result in death (i.e., misinformation of the COVID-19 pandemic). Thus, this is one of the ideas of what the author is trying to convey in this section.

Big Idea #3:

**Academic Anxiety is a problem in the 21st Century**

The author might want to convey that students might have been stressing too much about school. In this section, we can see that Kyle’s mom is worried about his SAT scores for university. “It had actually been a relief when my most recent SAT scores came in; even they could see I was nowhere near Princeton’s averages.” Kyle (107). Near the end of the section, his mom wants to Kyle publicly ask someone to the dance just because his mom wants Kyle to be special. From personal experience, some people I know had cut off their entire social life because they want to be better at school and they think that their social life is distracting them from completing that dream. The habit of studying non-stop everyday causes a lot of anxiety and stress to the individual. This could cause more serious mental issues such as depression later in life.