



Mind, Soul, and Comics Lesson Plan



Pasco Reading Group VI (Virtual)

Focus: “Financial Literacy”

Participants will be able to:

- Examine the concept of Financial Literacy by reading and discussing the book.
- Practice articulating thoughts and emotions by responding to prompts that relate character experiences to their own lives.

Materials:

- *Black Buck* by Mateo Askaripour

Procedures:

Intro: Begin session with a brief introduction on the background and purpose of the reading group as well as the expected conduct of those involved, reminding participants that every feeling is valid and to be respectful of those with differing opinions and beliefs. Encourage everyone to participate in whatever way makes them feel comfortable. Introduce the representative from the school of social work, who will briefly discuss their role and ability to recommend additional resources to participants based on identified needs that may arise from the group’s discussion. Lead into the title discussion with a short description of the theme for this month’s group: anxiety.

Session Activity: *Book Discussion.* Begin the discussion with a brief overview of the main title for this session—*Black Buck*.

Then propose the following questions to participants:

1. Consider the following passage from *Black Buck*:

“You see, it’s easy for someone to walk around telling everyone that they’re “jus’ waitin’ for the right opportunity,” but an entirely different thing when they actually receive it. An opportunity means change. An opportunity means action. But most of all, an opportunity means the chance of failure. And it’s the potential for failure, more than failure itself, that stops so many people from beginning anything. Back then, I was no different.”

Have you ever had an opportunity that you were scared to take, or even ended up not taking because you feared failing? Or, if it was not failure you feared, did you fear the change that came with the opportunity?

2. Read the following passage from *Black Buck*:

“Everyone thinks the key to succeeding in sales is motivation. Wrong. Motivation fades in an instant. But inspiration? Man, that’ll sustain you longer than accidentally overdosing on Viagra.”

Have you ever had an experience where motivation only carried you so far? Or an experience where inspiration and innovation helped you succeed?

3. In the book, *Black Buck*, the following quote is said:

“No matter how much it hurts, never let short-term frustration disrupt long-term gain. Sales is a marathon, not a sprint.”

How could this advice apply to other parts of your life? For example, when thinking of your personal finances, how could short-term frustrations in your life disrupt your long-term financial plans/goals?

4. Consider the following:

“Contrary to popular belief, “fairness” has no place in sales. It is not a meritocracy. Every salesperson comes into the game with a different set of advantages and disadvantages, but it’s knowing how to double down on what makes you special that will help you get ahead.”

Do you have a skill or knowledge that you would consider “special” to you?

How has this helped you in your professional life?

5. Read the following quote from *Black Buck*:

“It’s the duty of every man and woman who has achieved some success in life to pass it on, because when we’re gone, what matters most isn’t what we were able to attain but who we were able to help.”

Despite your current age, what is some life advice you would share with others? What advice about finances would you share to someone first entering the workforce?

6. Throughout the book, *Black Buck*, the narrator is driven by financial success, especially since he works as a salesman. In trying to achieve professional and financial success, the narrator even becomes a person his close family and friends do not recognize.

How large is of a driving force is finances in your life? At times, do you feel like you can be so blinded by financial success, that you may make decision you would not normally make?

Be sure to give participants enough time to respond, but presenters should be ready with answers to help move the discussion forward, if needed. Allow the discussion to evolve naturally, using

the questions as a guide to focus the conversation. A presenter not currently leading the discussion should take observation notes examining how much engagement each question elicits as well as how often participant responses reference the title under discussion. Towards the last ten minutes of the session, wrap up the discussion with a final overview of the title and the concept of “anxiety.”

Conclusion: Thank participants for attending the session. Encourage everyone to complete a program evaluation survey. Remind them of the follow up instructional session that will continue to explore this month’s theme.