



## **Book Study: *The Green Ember* – Finding Purpose Through Story – Syllabus**

**Course Description:** S.D. Smith's *The Green Ember* presents many ideas worthy of discussion, far too many to cover each one in-depth in just eight weeks. For this class, we have chosen to focus on the theme of purpose, that of finding one's place in the story of life. Students will see how main characters Heather and Picket discover their places in the fight against evil and the preservation of good, whilst learning how to spot hindrances to our individual purposes.

Students will read the complete text of *The Green Ember* and complete weekly written responses. Optional weekly vocabulary lists will be supplied, which can be further expanded at home as daily spelling practice.

**Students must have a copy of *The Green Ember* to read.** *Prerequisite: Essay Basics or equivalent five-paragraph essay experience highly recommended.*

### **Course Outline:**

#### **Week One:** *Starting Place*

- Meeting S.D. Smith
- Read Chapter 1-5
- Discussing Identity: Family Roots
- How Fear Can Define Us

#### **Week Two:** *First Impressions*

- Read Chapters 6-11
- First Impressions: Heather, Picket, & Smalls
- Character Compare: Picket vs. Smalls

#### **Week Three:** *The Story Isn't Over*

- Read Chapters 12-17
- Character Compare II: Picket vs. Smalls
- Danger, Evil, and Anger
- Folly, Pride, & Apologies

**Week Four:** *The Truth*

- Read Chapters 18-22
- Learning More: Heather & Picket
- Seeking the Truth

**Week Five:** *Where We Belong*

- Read Chapters 23-28
- Perspective through a Metaphor
- Heralds of the Mended Wood – Connection & Theme

**Week Six:** *The Green Ember*

- Read Chapters 29-34
- Forget or Face?
- Perspective in Purpose

**Week Seven:** *A Song of Hope*

- Read Chapters 35-39
- Conspire Against Gloom – Finding Hope in the Face of Evil
- Too Much Focus on 'Our Place' – What Can Destroy our Purpose
- We Must Make Choices

**Week Eight:** *The End*

- Read Chapters 40-44
- The Changes of Picket & Heather
- Final Responses

**Grading Information:** All assignments will be graded using *The Growing Writer Rubric* and averaged to receive a final course grade.