

Demon Copperhead: facilitator notes

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Whole-book spoilers. Facilitation notes, not an answer key.

Opening lens

Demon Copperhead tells a boy's story of growing up poor in southern Appalachia. His voice can make a reader laugh at a scene that also deserves anger. Keep both effects in view. The place is more than a label, and the people in it have lives that a short account cannot sum up.

Evidence method

Pick one chapter about a system of care. Set it beside a chapter about a person who works inside that system. What choices does each view reveal? Discuss the words on the page and the rules people face. No reader has to share a family history or speak for a region.

Minutes	Task	Book-specific starting point
0-5	Scope and pass option	Which feature of Demon's telling made the opening feel like his account rather than an outside report?
5-15	Opening reaction	Where did an early joke leave an uneasiness after the laugh?
15-30	People and relationships	What does talent offer Demon, and what forms of dependence can grow around it? Keep the opportunity and its cost in the same scene.
30-45	Narrative choices	How does addiction change the way time feels in the story? Consider repetition, urgency or waiting rather than diagnosing a character.
45-55	The ending	If you know David Copperfield, where does the relationship between the books sharpen a question rather than supply an answer?

Minutes	Task	Book-specific starting point
55-60	One remaining question	Leave with one distinction between surviving a system and being well served by it. That can keep the discussion from turning resilience into a reason to overlook harm.

Group 1 chapter cue

Bring a chapter about school, foster care or another institution.

Group 2 chapter cue

Choose a scene where a skill earns attention or approval.

Group 3 chapter cue

Return to a late chapter that changes how an earlier coping habit reads.

Closing direction

Leave with one distinction between surviving a system and being well served by it. That can keep the discussion from turning resilience into a reason to overlook harm.

Edition and scope note

David Copperfield is a source relationship, not required homework for this meeting. Discuss Kingsolver's novel on its own first. Use a separate primary source before making factual claims about present-day treatment or social-service policy.

Source

<https://www.barbarakingsolver.com/books/demon-copperhead> | Demon Copperhead | Barbara Kingsolver | ISBN 9780063251922