

## Appendix 2: Fall Book Club (During COVID)

This semester, we are reading Jessica Anthony's wonderful novel, *Enter the Aardvark*, in our class book club. And to make it even better, author Jessica Anthony is going to participate, too! She is not only our visiting writer for Fall 2020, and will be reading from her work on Tues., Oct. 13, at 7:30 (via Zoom, alas), BUT she will also be visiting our book club for three of the four sessions!

### What does that mean?

It means you'll get a chance to ask her questions and talk to her about how she came up with her ideas, what her process was, how she handled challenges in finishing her novel. It means you can learn even more about creative writing from a published writer. She's really excited to join our book club!

### How does the book club work?

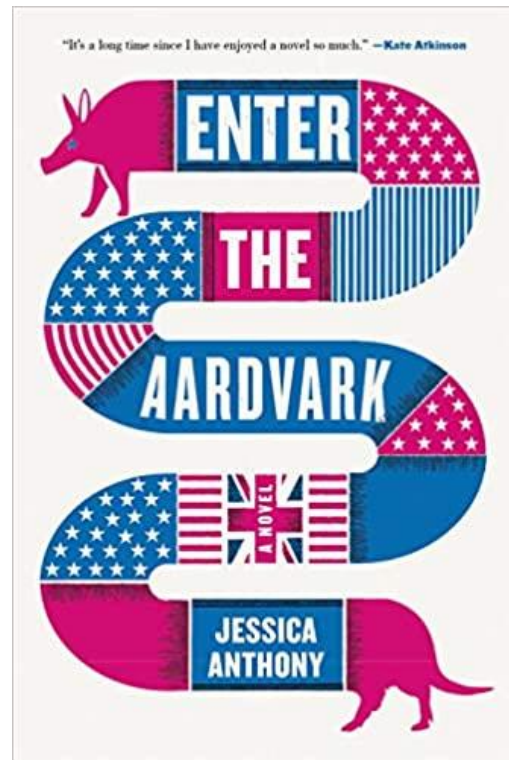
You can participate in multiple ways:

- Attend ONE book club session and write a [comprehensive response](#) to the novel;
- Attend TWO book club sessions and write a [personal reflection](#) on the novel;
- Attend THREE book club sessions and post a [brief response](#) on the novel
- Attend ALL FOUR book club sessions and...that's it. Nothing else to do.

### When are the book club sessions?

- Mon., Nov. 9, 5:00 pm--5:30 pm (pages 1-42)
- Thur., Nov. 19, 7:00 pm--7:30 pm (pages 42-79) \*Author attending\*
- Mon., Nov. 30, 4:30--5:00 pm (pages 80-122) \*Author attending\*
- Fri., Dec. 4, 11:00 am--11:30 am. (pages 123-end) \*Author attending\*

**Book club participation is worth 15% of your total course grade.**



## Sample Discussion Prompt

### **Our Third Book Club Meeting is Mon., Nov. 20, 4:30-5:00 pm, EST.**

Author Jessica Anthony will be joining us, so keep track of questions to ask her, including about how she came up with her ideas, what her process was and how she handled challenges in finishing her novel.

#### **How do I attend?**

Join from computer or mobile. Zoom link: xxxx

#### **What does "attending" actually mean?**

You must be present for the whole 30 minutes and you must have something to say. You cannot merely be a silent icon. To help you prepare, please see discussion questions for each section/session below. Come prepared to (1) Ask a question; (2) Share something interesting you noticed in the reading; (3) Share your personal response to the reading; OR (4) Something else or all of the above! Note that your comment cannot only be on the first five pages of the assigned reading (I know that trick!)

#### **Discussion Questions to Help You Participate**

For our third session, we are discussing pages 80-122

1. What do you notice about the concept of the Namibians' belief about wearing "skins of the enemy," the practice of taxidermy and Alexander Wilson's own obsession about wearing Ronald Reagan's clothes? Can you see any connections forming between these ideas?
2. What is the *jiva*? How does that keep coming up?
3. How are you finding Alexander Wilson as a character? Are you sympathetic to him? How does the use of the second person pronoun affect your perception of him as a character? Or does it?
4. What did you really like in this section? Where did you find yourself getting lost?