

# FULL LENGTH BOOK EXTENDER: Group Reading Aligned to Common Core

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## Grade 9-10 Discussion Questions

RL 9-10.2 Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze in detail its development over the course of the text, including how it emerges and is shaped and refined by specific details; provide an objective summary of the text.

How does Benioff develop themes of friendship/companionship throughout *City of Thieves* by using the characters of Lev and Kolya as well as some of Kolya's other acquaintances?

RL 9-10.5 Analyze how an author's choices concerning how to structure a text, order events within it (e.g., parallel plots), and manipulate time (e.g., pacing, flashbacks) create such effects as mystery, tension, or surprise.

What does Benioff's first chapter about his grandparents living in Florida contribute to the rest of the novel? How would your perception of the events in and around Leningrad be different without the first chapter?

## City of Thieves

By David Benioff, (2008)  
GRADES for USE: 9-10

### SUMMARY OF BOOK:

Lev, a Jew, and Kolya, an intellectual and soldier of the Red Army, are thrown together by circumstances that don't become fully clear until the middle of the novel. Their quest is to acquire one dozen eggs for a Colonel of the [NKVD](#), so that his daughter can have a proper wedding cake for her wedding during the Siege of Leningrad. The two are not quite fast friends, but braving cannibals, prostitutes, German fighters and a mess of others makes them close comrades.

## Grade 9-10 Activities

W 9-10.3 Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, well-chosen details, and well-structured event sequences.

Q: Students will interview a member of their family or a family friend who has lived through a key event in history (war, 9/11, assassination, etc.). Using the information from the interview, the student will write a fictionalized account of the experience expanding on the interviewee's personal account. Students need to consider what is most important according to their interview and use historical accuracies to enhance the truth of the writing.