

Literature Circle

Responsibilities of Literature Circle Members:

- Contribute to your Literature Circle discussion
- Personally keep up with your responsibilities to your group
- Diligently record your ideas on your Literature Circle Notes
- Respectfully hold each member accountable for work, contributions to discussion, and ongoing participation

Roles of Literature Circle Members:

- Illuminator
- Illustrator
- Connector
- Word Watcher
- Discussion Director
- Summarizer

Group Members/Roles:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

1.) Illuminator: Find passages within the reading material that your group can discuss. These passages should be memorable, interesting, puzzling, funny, and most of all, important. Your notes should include the quotations but also why you chose them, and what you want to say about them. You can either read the passage aloud yourself or ask members of your group to read roles.

Sample Questions for Illuminator:

- What were you thinking about as you read?
- What did the text make you think about?
- What do you think this text/passage was about?
- How might other people (of different backgrounds) think about this text/passage?
- What *one* question would you ask the writer if you got the chance? Why?
- What are the most important ideas/moments in this text/section?
- What do you think will happen next---and why?
- What was the most important change in this section? How and why did it happen?

2.) Illustrator: Draw what you read. This might mean drawing a scene in a comic book-like sequence so readers can better understand the action, or drawing a broad landscape that captures all of the important parts of the action. You can draw maps or organizational trees to show how one person, place, or event relates to the others. Use the notes area to explain how your drawing relates to the text. Label your drawings so your group members know who the characters are.

Sample Questions for Illustrator:

- Ask members of your group, “What do you think this picture means?”
- Why did you choose this scene to illustrate?
- How does this drawing relate to the story?
- Why did you choose to draw it the way you did?
- What do we see---i.e., who and/or what is in this picture?
- What, if anything, did drawing it help you see that you had not noticed before?
- What did this quotation/passage make you think about when you read it?
- What are you trying to accomplish through this drawing?

3.) Connector: Connect what you are reading with what you are studying or with the world outside of school. You can connect the story to events in your own life, news events, political events, or popular trends. Another important source of connections is books you've already read. The connections should be meaningful to you and those in your group.

Sample Questions for Connector

- What connections can you make to your own life?
- What other places or people could you compare this story to?
- What other books or stories might you compare to this one?
- What other characters or authors might you compare to this one?
- What is the most interesting or important connection that comes to mind?
- How does this section relate to those that came before it?

4.) Word Watcher: Watch out for words worth knowing while you read. These words might be interesting, new, important, or used in unusual ways. It is important to indicate the specific location of the words so the group can discuss these words in context.

Sample Questions for Word Watcher:

- Which words are used frequently?
- Which words are used in unusual ways?
- What words seem to have special meaning to the characters or author?
- What new words do you find in this section?
- What part of speech is this word?
- What is the connotative meaning of this word?
- What is the denotative meaning of this word?

5.) Discussion Director: Identify the important aspects of your assigned text, and develop questions your group will want to discuss. Focus on the major themes or “big ideas” in the text and your reaction to those ideas. What interests you will most likely interest those in your group. You are also responsible for facilitating your group’s discussion.

Sample Questions for Discussion Director:

- What were you thinking about as you read?
- What did the text make you think about?
- What do you think this text/passage was about?
- How might other people (of different backgrounds) think about this text/passage?
- What *one* question would you ask the writer if you got the chance? Why?
- What are the most important ideas/moments in this text/section?
- What do you think will happen next---and why?
- What was the most important change in this section? How and why did it happen?

6.) Summarizer: Prepare a brief summary of the day's reading. In addition to your sample questions, you might ask yourself what details, characters, or events are so important that they would be included on an exam. If it helps you to organize the information, consider making a numbered list or a timeline.

Sample Questions for Summarizer

- What are the most important events in the section you read?
- What makes them so important?
- What effects do these events have on the plot or the other characters?
- What changes---in plot, character, or tone---did you notice when you read?
- What questions might appear on an exam about this section you read?
- What might be a good essay topic for this section of the story?