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What is a Literature Circle?

Groups of people reading the same book and meeting together to discuss what they have read.
Features of a Literature Circle

- Groups of 3 to 6
- Group members of varied reading abilities
- Same book or selections of books
- Students assume roles within the group
- Teacher serves as a facilitator
- Sharing/Presentations
Selecting Literature

A quality literature book should include:

* Compelling content
* Interesting Characters
* Illustrations
Organizing Literature Circles

- Organize by author, genre, or theme
- Select books
- Give “Book talks”
- Student Choice
- Grouping
- Determine the amount of time to read daily
- Explain and assign roles
- Model!!
Literature Circle Roles

• Discussion Director
• Creative Connector
• Passage Predictor
• Artful Artist
• Super Summarizer
• Word Wizard
Discussion Director does . . .

Leads the group in stopping at certain points in the reading for the passage predictor to do their job, asks questions, and starts off reading aloud.
Creative Connector does . . .

Makes text-to-text, text-to-self, and text-to-world connections based on the text read.
Passage Predictor does . . .

Predicts what will happen next at two stopping points during the groups’ reading.
Artful Artist does . . .

Illustrates what was read and writes a caption.
Super Summarizer does . . .

Records the main events, characters, and setting in the section read.
Word Wizard does . . .

Identifies new, interesting, fun words in the text read. Then looks for the definition, part of speech, and writes a sentence of their own.
Discussion Strategies

• Staying on Topic
• Contributing appropriate information
• Encouraging all group members to participate
• Listening actively
• Looking at the Speaker
• Respecting other opinions
• Asking for clarification
• Summarizing
• Speaking clearly and with adequate volume
• Referring to others’ ideas
Discussion Topics

Respond to a part of the book that . . .
* Makes you laugh
* Makes you wonder
* Surprises you
* You don’t understand
* Has interesting words
* Reminds you of something that has happened in your life
* Make you sad or upset
* Was your favorite part
# A Sample Schedule

Week 1: Starting a Novel

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Book Cover of Predictions activity independently, then groups meet to share (Possibly begin reading)</td>
<td>Groups meet to read.....I usually give each group a page # to stop at. (I rotate around groups)</td>
<td>Groups meet to read together. I give a stopping page and then students start their job for the week.</td>
<td>Students work independently on their job.</td>
<td>Groups meet to share literature circle job sheets. I sometimes will give a fun extension activity to work on as a group after sharing.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Reading is Thinking:

Predictions

• I think I know what will happen next because .
  ...
• Connections
• This reminds me of _____ because . . .
Reading is Thinking

Inferences

• The author did not say it in words, but I know that _______ because . . .
Reading is Thinking

Questions

• I wonder why . . .
Reading is Thinking

Summary

• On this page . . .
• In the book . . .
• I learned . .
## Literary Circle Evaluation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grading Criteria</th>
<th>Points (0 to 5)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Summary (Concise, yet Complete)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vocabulary (Words and Definitions)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Questions (Quality Questions and Complete Answers)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graphic Organizer (Complete with Quality Answers)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation in Circle</td>
<td></td>
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</table>

### Grade/Total Points

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 - 5</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 - 10</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 - 15</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 - 20</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 - 25</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Name: ____________________________________________

Book read: _______________________________________

Comments:
Works Cited


