



Literature Circles

Love reading



Literature Circles are small groups of students who meet to talk about a book they are reading

A group of four will read a selected book. The group will decide on the amount of reading needed in order to complete reading by the decided upon due date.

Each reading assignment, each member of the group has a job with certain responsibilities.

Each meeting, members of the group receive a new job.

If the group is to work effectively, each person **must** do his job.

Participation and **self-control** are important ingredients in successful Literature Circles.

Each group will receive a folder in the class conference. Weekly assignments must be uploaded in these folders. The assignments must be handed in **the night before** the lesson.

The material that each group uploads will be taken into consideration for grading.

Final part of the course: Each group will produce a PowerPoint and give an oral presentation about their novel.

Literature Circles: The four obligatory tasks

- In order to complete a favourable literature session each group member must have a responsibility area. The four responsibility areas are mentioned below.
- Each group member will, by turns, fulfil one of the following roles for each literature session.
 1. Summarizer
 2. Discussion Leader
 3. Word Wizard
 4. You may pick one of the following optional tasks (each group must try all the tasks):
 - A. Story (Text) Connector & Real-Life Connector
 - B. Illustrator
- However, all group members must function as **Passage Pickers** for each session.

Passage Picker

Everyone's job is to pick parts of the section to read aloud to your group. **You might choose a:**

- Good Part
- Confusing Part
- Important Part
- Scary Part
- Good Writing Sample
- Interesting Part
- Funny Part
- Surprising Part
- Good Description

Be sure and indicate the page & line number in the text where the passage is located. **Write 3-5 sentences explaining why you chose this passage.**



Summarizer

Your job: **Write a summary that describes what happened in this section of the book.** Be sure you write in complete sentences, **refer back to the text often, and include lots of details.** Your writing should be **at least/no more than one page in length.**

When you meet with your group: Read the summary to the group. Ask them to tell you about other important parts you may have missed. Have each person tell you about their favorite part.

Discussion Leader

Your job: Write 4-6 questions for your group to discuss.

The questions should have to do with the section of the book you are reading.

Be sure your questions are **interesting and open-ended** so everyone will be able to answer it in their own way.



Sample Questions

Were you surprised when ____? Why or why not?

Do you think the main character made a good choice when he/she ____?

Why do you think the main character decided to ____?

When you meet with your group: read your questions to the group and give everyone a chance to answer.

After everyone has answered, share your answer with the group.

Word Wizard

Your job: Search for **words in this section of the book that you (or others in your group) might not know**. Write the sentences in which the words are located in the text and provide the contextual definition. You should find a minimum of 10 words.

When you meet with your group: First, share the challenging word you found. Show them where it is in the story. Then, have each person try to predict the definition. After everyone has shared their definitions, you can tell them the real meaning of the word.





Story (Text) Connector

Your job: Find parts from **this section of the reading that remind you of things that happened in another text that you have read, movie you have seen, television episode, song, etc.** Describe how the two texts are alike. Be sure you write in **complete sentences, refer back to the text often, and include lots of details.** Your writing should be in “essay style” format, **no less/no more than one page in length.**

When you meet with your group: Describe the event from the story you're reading and tell how it connects to another story you have read before. Describe the similarities to the group. Then, ask if anyone else can make other story connections.



Real-Life Connector

Your job: Find parts from this part of the reading that remind you of **things that happened to you or someone else in real life**. When you describe the real-life connection, **refer back to the text often, and include as many details as possible**. Your writing should be in “essay style” format, **no less/no more than one page in length**.

When you meet with your group :Describe the section of the story that reminds you of real life. Then, tell how something similar happened to you or someone you know. After that, you can ask everyone in your group if anything similar has happened to them or someone they know.



Illustrator

Your job: Draw a picture of **one scene from the section of the book you are reading**. Your picture should be **colorful and have lots of details**.

When your group meets, do not say what your drawing is. Let them guess and talk about it. Have each member of the group describe what's happening in your picture.

Then you can tell them about it.


Literature Circle Process

Groups will meet in class.

The order of the discussion will be as follows:

1. Discussion begins with the summarizer
2. After the summarizer “sums up” the previous reading, he/she shares his/her Passage Pick
3. All other members share their chosen passage
4. Next, the Discussion Leader shares his/her questions following the directions in this power point
5. Word Wizard shares
6. Optional responsibility task
7. After assignments are shared, group members decide upon roles for the next reading assignment
8. Final step, peer/self-assessment



The background is a dark, textured surface, possibly a book cover or endpaper, scattered with numerous autumn leaves in shades of orange, yellow, and red. A small, light-colored squirrel is perched on a thin branch, holding a nut. The overall mood is cozy and seasonal.

Do your job with excellence!

Do your part to enable your group to have a meaningful conversation about your book.

Stay on topic as you talk.

Share your ideas and enjoy the conversation.

Be sure and include the title of the book and the author's name in all of your assignments.

Be sure to include direct references to the text with page numbers to indicate the location of the reference.

Have fun!

Remember...