

Literature Circles

The following describes our way of doing a “lit circle”. A literature circle is an informal reading discussion group. Students share their ideas about a shared text (novel, non-fiction etc.).

How It Looks:

***Each day the group will meet to share ideas and read to each other. Students should take turns and be prepared to listen well to their group members.**

At Each Meeting:

***Go to your meeting place and start with a new person each time. Someone be the day’s leader.**

***Follow along and find place where the sharing person asks you to.**

***Working in the order below, share, taking turns and discuss each idea recorded on your stickies.**

***When one type of sharing is done, move on to the next and so on.**

***When everyone has shared, read a ½ or whole page each while others track.**

***Take turns predicting for the next chapter.**

***Pick pages to read for next time and begin reading.**

***When time is up, return to seat.**

The Responsibilities Are:

Connections: Share 2 personal or literary connections you made with the text.

Questions: Come up with 2 questions to ask the group about the pages read.

Vocabulary: Choose 2 fun, exciting, important or new words to share, define and discuss.

Inferences: Make 2 inferences (w/evidence) to share and discuss with the group.

Predictions: Each person predicts what will happen next (w/evidence).

Oral Read: Each reads a passage they chose and explains the reasons it was chosen.

Tips On How To Behave in Lit Circles

(adapted from Hill, Noe, and Johnson)

1. **Keep your eyes on the person who is speaking.**
 2. **Keep your hands still and empty.**
 3. **Sit up straight.**
 4. **Keep your mind focused on what the other person is saying.**
 5. **Ask questions.**
 6. **Politely disagree and explain why you disagree.**
 7. **Make sure only one voice is speaking during a discussion.**
 8. **Use what others have said as a "spring board" for something you want to say. (Ex. "Cory said the horseback riding part reminded him of the time he went out west and went horseback riding with his cousins. That reminded me of the time I went up to Mackinac Island and we rode horses around the island. But that's a lot different than the horseback riding in this book.")**
 9. **Always have your book with you in discussion and refer to it often.**
 10. **Encourage others when they speak. Say something like "Good point." Or "I like how you explained that." Or, "Would you explain that again please?"**
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A Few No No's

1. **Don't work on your lit circle task during discussion.**
2. **Don't talk to others in a different lit circle.**
3. **Don't make fun of others or their work. Ever.**
4. **Don't come to your discussion unprepared.**
5. **Don't fill out your evaluation sheets until the discussion is officially over.**

[illegible]

Name: _____ Meeting Date: _____

Reflection Worksheet

Indicators	What did I do well?	What do I need to work on?
Verbal Behaviors		
Nonverbal Behaviors		
Positive Skills		

Goals for Next Time	Met the goal?	
	YES	NO

Lit Circles



Before your group's next meeting, record the following on stickies and place them in your book where you found them:

***Connections**

(You, Text, World)

***Questions**

(Probing, thoughtful for peers or author)

***Vocabulary**

(New, cool, weird, funny)

***Inferences**

(Read between the lines, conclusions, "I think....")

***Predictions**

(What will happen?
With evidence)

*** A Passage for**

(For sharing and Why?)

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