

How to Lead a Literature Circle

(Teacher Information)

Prior to the meeting, write one question on the board for students to answer in the Teacher Question section. Allow time to write answers and then invite students to form a circle. Make sure everyone brings their Literature Packet and their book to the circle. Sit on the carpet or around a large table.

Summary

- Ask someone to summarize the selection. Discuss the summary (some kids write too much, while others leave out important details.)

Vocabulary

- Have each person give one word they selected. Ask them to read the sentence and/or paragraph from which the word came. Ask the group to make educated guesses about the word. Allow the person to give the dictionary definition and discuss connotations.

General Discussion

Start off with some general questions like the following:

- How did you feel while reading this part of the book?
- Did anything in this section surprise you?
- What was the most exciting, interesting, funny, or confusing part? Would someone like to read that paragraph or section aloud? (Preparation for the future role of Literary Luminary.)
- What kinds of connections can you make between things that happened in the book and something in your own life? (Preparation for future role of Connector.)

Discussion of Student Questions

- Ask everyone to read aloud their questions without giving answers. Discuss the quality of the questions and choose several of the best questions to discuss as a group.
- Discuss Teacher Question and answer.

Closure

- Discuss the graphic organizer.
- Ask students to make predictions about what will happen next.
- Make sure everyone knows what the reading assignment is for the upcoming week.

