

Getting Involved

Literature Circles can be fun. It is exciting to be part of a group that shares something. So get involved, read, think, and talk about books!

Responsibilities of a Member

Remember—a Literature Circle is a team, and you are part of that team. Each team member has responsibilities that are defined by the role he or she is assigned.

People Are Depending On You

When you are assigned a role, others in the group are counting on you to bring the necessary work to the next meeting. It is important that you keep up with the reading, and always have your copy of the story with you. It is hard to be a valued member of the team if you do not know what is going on. Remember—people want to hear from you and talk to you about the story.

Participation Is Important

Some people enjoy talking and sharing their ideas, while others prefer to be quiet. Since all members are expected to participate equally, you need to ask yourself: Do I need to speak up more? Do I need to hold back and listen more?

Think It Through

You will be presenting and hearing some original and well-thought-out ideas about the story you read. Literature Circles will give you great learning opportunities. As you read your assigned pages, take the time to think through what you are reading. The more prepared you are, the more ideas you will be able to discuss in the group.

Literature Circle Jobs

Name: _____

My Job For	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6
Question Maker						
Highlighter						
Relater						
Picture Maker						
Word Detective						
Profiler						

Weekly Readings

Divide your novel into six equal sections. To do this divide the total number of pages by 6. Each week it will be your responsibility to read the assigned amount of pages.

- Week 1: _____
- Week 2: _____
- Week 3: _____
- Week 4: _____
- Week 5: _____
- Week 6: _____

How Did I Do?

Literature Circle Self-evaluation

	Reading	Literature circle task	Presentation	Group cooperation
Week 1				
Week 2				
Week 3				
Week 4				
Week 5				
Week 6				

Scale:

- O: Outstanding quality of work, helpful cooperative, ready to present on time 5
- P: Proficient- very good quality, helpful, cooperative and ready to present on time 4
- M: Meeting- satisfactory work, cooperative and ready to present on time 3
- IM: Improving- doing your best and getting better each week 2
- NI: Needs Improvement- lacks enthusiasm, effort, and not participating in group discussions, not ready 1

Reading: read when it is my turn, follow closely when others are reading, and help others

Literature circle task: do my best on each job and help by encouraging others

Presentation: listen to others respectful, share ideas willingly, encourage others

Role: The Question Maker



Your job is to prepare questions that will start the group discussion and allow the members to share their opinions. After you have read the story very carefully, record your questions on your Question Maker work sheet.

Try to avoid asking closed-ended questions (those that can be answered with a one word answer like 'yes' or 'no'). Be sure to pose a question to each member of the group so that everyone has an equal chance to participate.

Role: The Highlighter

Choose two passages from the story to read aloud. Each passage should be two paragraphs long. It can be funny, sad, confusing, or important to the story in some other way.

Once you have chosen a passage, record the information on your work sheet. Remember to give a reason or justification for your selection.

When it is your turn to present, tell the others in your group what page and paragraph to turn to. Read your selection to the group.

Ask each member of the group why he or she thinks you chose the passage you did. Listen to their comments, then tell them why you chose the section to highlight.

Role: The Relater

As the Relater, it is your job to find connections between the story and your world. Stories remind us about other things—when you connect a story you have just read to other ideas, you are **relating ideas**.

Choose a section that reminds you of something from your own life or from the life of someone you know. On the work sheet, explain how your experience is similar to the one you selected in the book. Find two to three relationships between you and the book.

In your group, explain the real-life experience you can connect to the story. Ask others in your group to figure out where in the story there is a similar situation. After everyone has had a chance to make a prediction, reveal the page and scene in the story where the relationship can be found. Explain how your experience and the situation in the book are similar.

Role: The Picture Maker



You will use the story to create a picture, sketch, cartoon, diagram, chart, or collage. You can re-create a picture from the book, or create an image of something that the reading reminds you of. Your picture can represent a feeling or an idea.

Without saying anything, show your picture to the others in your group. Ask them if they can identify the scene from the story.

After everyone has had a chance to comment on your illustration, explain what the picture means and what part of the story it depicts.

Role: The Word Detective

Your job is to choose three special words from the story. These words might be unfamiliar to you, they might sound interesting, or they may seem important to you for another reason.

On your Word Detective work sheet, write down the page number and section where each word is found. Look up the meanings of the words in a dictionary, and record the definitions on your work sheet. For words with more than one meaning, select the one that best fits with how the word is used in the story.

Tell the others which page contains the first word, and read the definition, but not the word. Ask the others in your group to find the word that you are talking about. Once the word has been identified, explain your reason for selecting it.

Role: The Profiler



Your job is to look at the characters and determine their personalities based on how they act, what they say, and how you imagine they look.

On your Profiler work sheet, record a personality trait for one of the characters. Find three examples in the story where the character exhibits that trait. Alternately, you might identify three different personality traits for one character, and show evidence for each trait. In your group, read your three examples from the story and let the other group members try to identify the personality trait(s).

QUESTION MAKER WORK SHEET

Possible Discussion Questions

Question 1: _____

Question 2: _____

Question 3: _____

Question 4: _____

Question 5: _____

HIGHLIGHTER WORK SHEET

Highlighted Section 1: Page: _____ Paragraph: _____

Reminder: Reasons for highlighting

- an enjoyable part
- an interesting part
- a well-written part
- a funny part
- a good description
- many other reasons
- a scary part
- a major event

Why I picked it. (Explain in paragraph form.) _____

Highlighted Section 2: Page: _____ Paragraph: _____

Reminder: Reasons for highlighting

- an enjoyable part
- an interesting part
- a well-written part
- a funny part
- a good description
- many other reasons
- a scary part
- a major event

Why I picked it. (Explain in paragraph form.) _____

RELATER WORK SHEET

Some relationships I found between this reading and my own life or the life of someone I know.

Relationship 1: Page: _____ Paragraph: _____

Real-Life Relationship / Relationship to Others (books, movies, TV, songs, etc.) _____

Relationship 2: Page: _____ Paragraph: _____

Real-Life Relationship / Relationship to Others (books, movies, TV, songs, etc.) _____

WORD DETECTIVE WORK SHEET

Word: _____ Page: _____ Paragraph: _____

Definition: _____

Word: _____ Page: _____ Paragraph: _____

Definition: _____

Word: _____ Page: _____ Paragraph: _____

Definition: _____

PROFILER WORK SHEET

Character: _____

Personality Trait: _____, _____, _____

Evidence 1: Page: _____ Paragraph: _____

Description of action, appearance, speech, thoughts. _____

Evidence 2: Page: _____ Paragraph: _____

Description of action, appearance, speech, thoughts. _____

Evidence 3: Page: _____ Paragraph: _____

Description of action, appearance, speech, thoughts. _____

Getting Involved

Literature Circles can be fun. It is exciting to be part of a group that shares something. So get involved, read, think, and talk about books!

Responsibilities of a Member

Remember—a Literature Circle is a team, and you are part of that team. Each team member has responsibilities that are defined by the role he or she is assigned.

People Are Depending On You

When you are assigned a role, others in the group are counting on you to bring the necessary work to the next meeting. It is important that you keep up with the reading, and always have your copy of the story with you. It is hard to be a valued member of the team if you do not know what is going on. Remember—people want to hear from you and talk to you about the story.

Participation Is Important

Some people enjoy talking and sharing their ideas, while others prefer to be quiet. Since all members are expected to participate equally, you need to ask yourself: Do I need to speak up more? Do I need to hold back and listen more?

Think It Through

You will be presenting and hearing some original and well-thought-out ideas about the story you read. Literature Circles will give you great learning opportunities. As you read your assigned pages, take the time to think through what you are reading. The more prepared you are, the more ideas you will be able to discuss in the group.

Literature Circle Jobs

Name:

My Job For	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6
Question Maker						
Highlighter						
Relater						
Picture Maker						
Word Detective						
Profiler						

Weekly Readings

Divide your novel into six equal sections. To do this divide the total number of pages by 6. Each week it will be your responsibility to read the assigned amount of pages.

- Week 1: _____
- Week 2: _____
- Week 3: _____
- Week 4: _____
- Week 5: _____
- Week 6: _____

How Did I Do?

Literature Circle Self-evaluation

	Reading	Literature circle task	Presentation	Group cooperation
Week 1				
Week 2				
Week 3				
Week 4				
Week 5				
Week 6				

Scale:

- O: Outstanding quality of work, helpful cooperative, ready to present on time 5
- P: Proficient- very good quality, helpful, cooperative and ready to present on time 4
- M: Meeting- satisfactory work, cooperative and ready to present on time 3
- IM: Improving- doing your best and getting better each week 2
- NI: Needs Improvement- lacks enthusiasm, effort, and not participating in group discussions, not ready 1

Reading: read when it is my turn, follow closely when others are reading, and help others

Literature circle task: do my best on each job and help by encouraging others

Presentation: listen to others respectful, share ideas willingly, encourage others

QUESTION MAKER WORK SHEET

Possible Discussion Questions

Question 1: _____

Question 2: _____

Question 3: _____

Question 4: _____

Question 5: _____

HIGHLIGHTER WORK SHEET

Highlighted Section 1: Page: _____ Paragraph: _____

Reminder: Reasons for highlighting

- an enjoyable part
- a funny part
- a scary part
- an interesting part
- a good description
- a major event
- a well-written part
- many other reasons

Why I picked it. (Explain in paragraph form.) _____

Highlighted Section 2: Page: _____ Paragraph: _____

Reminder: Reasons for highlighting

- an enjoyable part
- a funny part
- a scary part
- an interesting part
- a good description
- a major event
- a well-written part
- many other reasons

Why I picked it. (Explain in paragraph form.) _____

RELATER WORK SHEET

Some relationships I found between this reading and my own life or the life of someone I know.

Relationship 1: Page: _____ Paragraph: _____

Real-Life Relationship / Relationship to Others (books, movies, TV, songs, etc.) _____

Relationship 2: Page: _____ Paragraph: _____

Real-Life Relationship / Relationship to Others (books, movies, TV, songs, etc.) _____

WORD DETECTIVE WORK SHEET

Word: _____ Page: _____ Paragraph: _____

Definition: _____

.....
Word: _____ Page: _____ Paragraph: _____

Definition: _____

.....
Word: _____ Page: _____ Paragraph: _____

Definition: _____

PROFILER WORK SHEET

Character: _____

Personality Trait: _____, _____, _____

Evidence 1: Page: _____ Paragraph: _____

Description of action, appearance, speech, thoughts. _____

Evidence 2: Page: _____ Paragraph: _____

Description of action, appearance, speech, thoughts. _____

Evidence 3: Page: _____ Paragraph: _____

Description of action, appearance, speech, thoughts. _____

