

Literature Circles

Literature circles, or book clubs, are discussion groups that meet on a regular basis to talk about a specific book or other text.

Students practice assuming different roles and discussion strategies using a short text beforehand.

Students work in small groups that are often based on the book choice.

Specific roles may or may not be used. All group members should be encouraged to come to the discussions with questions and ideas.

Literature circle groups meet regularly according to a set schedule.

Links to the QEP

-Talks about own responses to a text within a classroom community.

-Draws on own reading profile and reading strategies to locate textual details that support own interpretations.

-Deepens own meaning(s) of a text in discussion with other readers.

-Constructs interpretations that embody both own world and the world of the text.

Secondary English Language Arts Program, Cycle I p. 111 and Cycle II p. 35.

Tip

Groups of 4-6 students work best

Tip

Have students choose their books.

Tip

Use guiding questions to focus the discussions.

Tip

Use literature circle roles as a temporary measure.

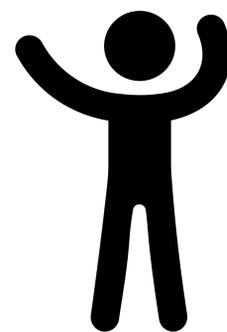
Questions to Promote Discussions

What do you wonder?

What could it mean?

Why do you think that?

What do you notice?



Elements to Explore

character

foreshadowing

suspense

setting

archetypes

point of view

plot

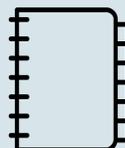
humour

symbolism

Next Steps



Encourage students to come to each literature circle with ideas, questions and reactions.



Students may use a reader's/writer's notebook to make notes and plan their discussions.



End each literature circle with a whole group debriefing session.