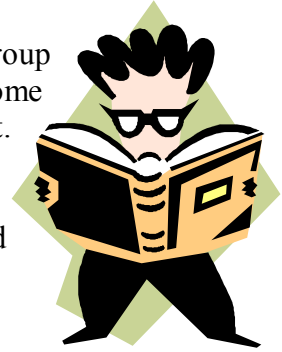


Literature Circles -- Jobs

Literary Luminary:

Your job is to locate a few special sections of the text that your group would like to hear read aloud. The idea is to help people remember some interesting, powerful, funny, puzzling, or important sections of the text. You decide which passages or paragraphs are worth hearing, and then jot plans for how they should be shared. You can read the passages aloud yourself, ask someone else to read them, or have people read silently and discuss.



Possible reasons for picking a passage to be shared:

- | | |
|------------|-------------------|
| Important | Informative |
| Surprising | Controversial |
| Funny | Well-written |
| Confusing | Thought-provoking |

Discussion Director:



Your job is to develop a list of questions that your group might want to discuss about this part of the book. Don't worry about the small details. Your task is to help people talk over the BIG ideas in the reading and share their reactions. Usually the best discussion questions come from your own thoughts, feelings, and concerns as you read, which you can list during or after your reading. Questions should be specific to the novel.

Sample questions:

How did you feel while reading this part of the book?

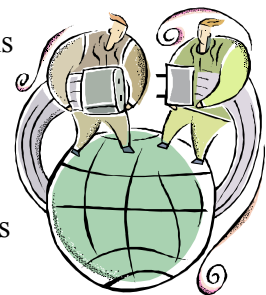
Did anything in this section surprise you?

What are one or two of the most important ideas?

Predict some things that may happen next?

Connector:

Your job is to find connections between the book your group is reading and the world outside. This means connecting the reading to your own life, to happenings at school or in the community, to similar events at other times and places, to people or problems that you are reminded of. You might also see connections between this book and other writings on the same topic or by the same author. There are no right or wrong answers here, what the reading connects you with is worth sharing.



Investigator:

Your job is to dig up some background information on any topic related to your book. This might include:



- The geography, weather, culture, or history of the book’s setting
- Information about the author, her/his life, and other works.
- Information about the time period portrayed in the book
- Picture, objects, or materials that illustrate elements of the book
- The history and derivation of words or names used in the book
- Music that reflects the book or the time

Ways of gathering information:

- The introduction, preface, or “about the author” section of the book (only one person can use this)
- Library books and magazines
- The Internet
- Interviews with people who know the topic
- Other novels, nonfiction, or textbooks you’re read

Illustrator:

Your job is to draw some kind of picture related to the reading. It can be a sketch, cartoon diagram, flow chart or stick-figure scene. You can draw a picture of something that is discussed specifically in your book or something that the reading reminded you of. When it is time to show your picture, try this technique: show it to everyone without explaining. Then have them speculate what your picture means.



Presentation Plan: When the discussion Director invites your participation, you may show your picture without comment to the others in the group. One at a time, they get to speculate what your picture means, to connect the drawing to their own ideas about the reading. After everyone has had a say, you get the last word: tell them what your picture means, where it came from, or what it represents to you.

Alternate jobs:

Word Master:

Your job is to be on the lookout for a few especially important words in today’s reading. If you find words that are puzzling or unfamiliar, jot them down. Then later find their definition and make a plan to present it to your circle. You may also run across words that used in unusual ways or that are repeated a lot. Mark them too, and help members discuss the words you have chosen.

Summarizer:

Your job is to prepare a brief summary of today’s reading. The other members of your group will be counting on you to give a quick statement that conveys the gist, the key points, the main highlights, the essence of today’s reading assignment. If there are several main ideas or events to remember, list them in the order in which they occurred.