**Book Circles**

**The last time you were in literature circles things were very specified for you in terms of goals and roles. This time, you will have much more control over both your readings and discussions. Essentially, you will be in charge of leading your own discussions as well as making decisions for yourselves.**

**Things you should naturally be doing at this point:**

* Design questions to increase the understanding of and relationship with the book
* Find interesting passages and quotes to point out to the group
* Examine figurative language, imagery, significant word choices, symbolic elements and sensory description
* Make note of lines/words/passages that add to your view and understanding of character and theme
* Work towards determining what you should be paying attention to and what point(s) the author is making
* Make personal connections and judgments of the events and characters
* Actively participate in all points of discussion

**Group Process:**

Your first meeting:

1. Decide your reading schedule. Group meeting days are outlined on the provided calendar.
2. Determine if you want individuals to take on specific roles *(ex: Discussion Director, Question Creator, Symbolizer, Quote Analyzer, Character Chart creation, etc.)*, or if everyone is going to simply do everything *(ex: you all come to class prepared with questions, comments, passages to discuss, patterns established, etc.)*
3. Make sure you have one another’s contact info and a copy of the reading / role schedule (if applicable)
4. Read your assigned portion of the text and prepare for literature circle meetings

Every meeting following:

1. Use written or annotated notes to guide the group’s reading and discussion
2. Be open and make sure that everyone has a chance to participate
3. Remember: personal stories that connect to the reading and open-ended questions about the text are welcome
4. Be prepared to show me your \***individual annotations and/or notes** from your assigned reading (will be graded)
5. Be prepared to show me your \***notes from your discussion that day** (will be collected and graded)

***\*Each meeting day = 2 grades: Individual Annotations / Notes & Group Discussion Notes***

After each group meeting:

1. Begin / Continue building on theme and development, patterns, symbols, etc.
2. Begin / Continue coming to some conclusions about the purpose behind the novel and its message

**NOTE:**

I expect that group conversations will look different from one another, but if you don’t know where to start:

* + You might start by asking questions Socratic Discussion style. Then perhaps share personal reactions, or point out symbols to discuss (each group member should contribute personal findings from the reading). You could talk about specific passages or imagery, maybe make predictions or talk about developing themes, etc.
  + An effective meeting should take a full 30-40 minutes of class. Stay on task.
  + I will also regularly drop in and out of group meetings to both participate and assess.

**Some things to think about:**

* If one person doesn’t do their job, the group will suffer and you run the risk that class will be a waste of time
* Also, if you do this right, you will gain skills that will help you be a better student through even college
* HOLD EACH OTHER ACCOUNTABLE FOR YOUR ACTIONS!
* If problems do not resolve easily within the group and one person is consistently slacking off, please tell me in private. I need to know so the entire group doesn’t suffer.
* Finally, have fun!!! This is meant to be a change of pace and to give you some control for the end of the year.

**Calendar (plan your reading accordingly)**

*I reserve the right to make changes to this calendar. IF changes are made, you will be notified well in advance.*

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **MONDAY** | **TUESDAY** | **WEDNESDAY** | **THURSDAY** | **FRIDAY** |
| **May 7** | **8** | **9** | **10**  Initial Meeting:  Set Schedule | **11** |
| **14** | **15**  Meeting Day #1 | **16** | **17** | **18**  Meeting Day #2 |
| **21** | **22** | **23** | **24** | **25**  Meeting Day #3 |
| **28**  **HOLIDAY**  **– NO SCHOOL –** | **29** | **30**  Meeting Day #4 | **31** | **June 1**  Meeting Day #5 |
| **4** | **5**  Meeting Day #6 | **6**  Groups | **7**  Groups | **8**  Groups |
| **11**  Presentations | **12**  Presentations | **13**  Final Exams | **14**  Final Exams | **15**  Final Exams |

**You will be graded on your participation with the group. This includes coming to class prepared, both initiating and responding to questions / issues within the reading, contributing in a positive manner during each meeting, and consistent attendance.** (If you know you’ll be absent from class, please email me or a member of your group your part of that day’s discussion so your group may carry on without you.**) Your participation grade is out of 5 possible points for each group meeting . If you are absent from class, you will not receive points for the day unless you give me or someone in the class your prepared work. The only exception is if your absence is OFFICIALLY excused because of a *legitimate emergency*.**

Please be sure to contact me with any questions. Do not wait until the last minute to do so. I am willing to help you with this assignment at any time!