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ELA, Socials & Science

NOVEL STUDY

READING GROUP ORGANIZERS

TOOLS TO ORGANIZE STUDENT READING GROUPS

Reading Circles

A "reading circle" is a small group of people who are reading the same novel together. Your group will meet once a week to share ideas, thoughts and feelings about the novel and to clarify any parts that may be confusing. You must come prepared to every "reading circle" meeting.

PART 1–READING CIRCLE MEETING

- Each week you must complete your reading. We will spend 3-4 weeks on a novel so you will have to spend 15-20 minutes a day reading to keep up with your classmates.
- You must bring the following to each Reading Circle meeting.
  - A passage that you have selected to share with your group—it may be a few sentences or an entire page. The key is that the selection is meaningful to you. Perhaps it reminds you of a memory, made you laugh / cry, made you think…
  - Three interpretive questions written down on a piece of paper—they must be "thinking questions". For example "What is the name of the main character?" is NOT a good question. However, "Why do you think the boy took no money when he ran away?" is a question that encourages thinking and discussion in your group. You will have a chance to share and discuss everyone's questions.

PART 2–RESPONSE JOURNAL

- Each week you are responsible for completing a minimum of 3 response journals. These are designed to give me some insight into your reading process and to train you to become an active reader. This is an ongoing record of your reading, therefore there is no reason for it to not be complete.
- Each response journal MUST HAVE the following:
  1. Summary—what is happening in your novel? This should be a short paragraph explaining what happened in your novel.
  2. Reaction—What are you thinking as you read this novel? Here are some starters to help you out.
     - I wonder why…
     - I predict…
     - This part reminds me of…

Reading Circle

NAME:_____ DATE:_____
NOVEL :_____

	REACTION

Reading Circles

A great way to do a novel study is through Reading Circles. Small groups of students read the same novel and then meet once a week to share ideas, thoughts and feelings about the novel and to clarify any parts that may be confusing. Less formal than a literature circle where students have specific roles, this has been a much easier system in my classroom.

This format allows students a choice when picking a book to read and also gives them an opportunity to share in a small group setting.

I offer the class up to 6 titles to read (5-6 copies of each title) and let the students choose their book. I give a book talk for each title and try to include a mix of books to cover different interests and abilities. Each title/ novel therefore forms their own group.

Students are given 3-4 weeks to complete their reading—you can always adapt for different classes / novels. However, this activity is designed around four reading circle meetings.

I collect and assess their reading journals—I am looking for thoughtful, well-written responses. I explain that this activity is not about just keeping a summary of the novel. It's about delving deep, asking good questions and showing a keen interest in their reading.

Unlike, Literature Circles, each student in the group has the same task to complete. Students are NOT assigned different roles as they are in a Literature Circle.

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     - I wonder why…
     - I predict…
     - This part reminds me of…
     - If I were in this situation I would…
     - I can't believe…
     - I find it interesting that….
     - I liked it when…
     - I hope that…
     - In the next chapter…
     - My favorite part was…
     - I don't like…
     - I wish that…

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Reading Circle Schedule

My novel is _____ by _____.

My Reading Circle Day is _____

I need to read _____ pages per week and write a response journal every _____ pages.

READING CIRCLE #1-_____

- I must have read up to at least page _____.
- I have selected a passage—it is on page _____.
- I have done both parts of my Response Journal. _____
- My three interpretive questions are...

READING CIRCLE #2 -_____

- I must have read up to at least page _____.
- I have selected a passage—it is on page _____.
- I have done both parts of my Response Journal. _____
- My three interpretive questions are...

READING CIRCLE #3 -_____

- I must have read up to at least page _____.
- I have selected a passage—it is on page _____.
- I have done both parts of my Response Journal. _____
- My three interpretive questions are…

READING CIRCLE #4 -_____

- I must have read up to at least page _____.
- I have selected a passage—it is on page _____.
- I have done both parts of my Response Journal. _____
- My three interpretive questions are…

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Reading Circle Group

NOVEL TITLE: _____

AUTHOR:_____

EXPLAIN WHY YOU CHOSE THIS BOOK. WHAT ABOUT IT APPEALED TO YOU?

WHAT DO YOU THINK THIS BOOK IS ABOUT? MAKE A PREDICTION!

READING CIRCLE GROUP MEMBERS:

READING CIRCLE DAY: _____

HOW MANY PAGES DO YOU NEED TO READ EVERY WEEK TO KEEP UP WITH YOUR GROUP? _____

WHAT DO YOU THINK WILL MAKE THIS GROUP SUCCESSFUL?

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Reading Circle

NAME:_____ DATE: _____

NOVEL :_____

SUMMARY	REACTION
1.	
2.	
3.	

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Reading Circle
DISCUSSION SUMMARY

NAME:_____ DATE: _____

NOVEL :_____

QUESTION 1:

KEY POINTS OF DISCUSSION:

QUESTION 2:

KEY POINTS OF DISCUSSION:

QUESTION 3:

KEY POINTS OF DISCUSSION:

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Thanks so much for your purchase!

Writing Resources

Poetry Resources

Other Resources

GOOGLE DRIVE

NOVEL STUDY

HOLIDAY WRITING

MEDIA LITERACY

Let's Keep in Touch!

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~ Addie

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