

FUNKY LITERATURE CIRCLES WITH ROLES!!!

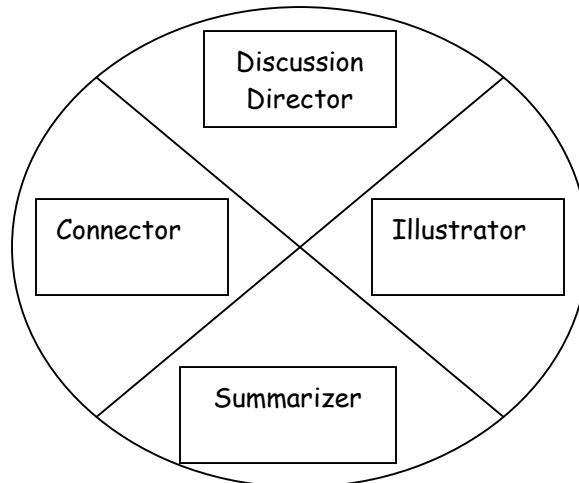
Hey, all! Welcome to our new way to introduce literature circles, which we have chosen to call "Funky Literature (Lit for short) Circles with Roles!" (WHOO HOO!!!)

What are Literature Circles?

Lit circles are really cool things, when you do a novel study but get to have some choice in what you do. Lit circles allow you to read books in small groups, usually of just three or four students. Other groups read other books, and part of the fun is that you have a say in the book you end up reading! No more "read this chapter and answer these five questions" stuff. Lit circles ask you to think deeply, approach the book differently, and try out some funky roles to experience literature in a whole new way.

Four Cycles, Four Roles

This version of lit circles is set up in four cycles. There are four roles that correspond with the four cycles, so that each group member will do a job once. Here are the jobs (or "roles"):



If You Only Have Three Group Members

Each group member will do a job one time, but if there are only three members in a group, then the roles of Summarizer and Illustrator will be done together.

Everyone Needs to Reflect...

In addition to the Roles, each group member will do a Reflection each cycle. A Reflection is where you write about your personal response to the book: how what you read made you feel, questions you had, what you'd do differently if you were the character or if you were the author, what part you most liked, what part you disliked, etc. The teacher who is working with your group will read your Reflections and write back to each of you personally. We will try to ask you some personal questions to make you think a bit more about the story, and you can share these with your group when you meet the next time for your discussion.

How It All Works

We will gather you together to hear about your book choices and allow you to select your first, second, and third choices. We will try to ensure you receive one of your choices, but we can't promise it will be your first choice.

When your group first meets, you will divide your book into four sections. Try to make these fairly equal, but make sure you don't divide up one chapter between two sections. You will read each section in a "cycle." The first section will be "Cycle 1" and you will do the first role, the second section will be "Cycle 2" and you'll do the next role, and so on. Fill out the Contract so that you can keep track of due dates and page numbers, as well as roles.

Reading Days

On your "Reading Days," you will gather with your group to read as much of the section as time allows (taking turns to read aloud to the group, page by page). You will have a day or more to work on completing the reading independently. You'll also need to complete your role sheet for that cycle, as well as your Reflection sheet.

Discussion Days

We will then meet for "Discussion Day," when you will answer the Discussion Director's questions and share your role pages with your group. The Discussion Director will keep the group on task, decide who goes first, and act as leader. At the end of the Discussion Day, you will hand in your completed Role and Reflection Sheets to the teacher for evaluation.

Evaluation:

On both Reading Days and Discussion Days, your teacher(s) will be walking around, listening to your voices and making notes and observations in order to assess how well you're doing. Don't panic when you see us; we are there to "eavesdrop" in order to help you, not to "catch" you.

You Will Be Marked on:

- ❑ Your one day as Discussion Director (by the sheet and observation)
- ❑ Your one day as Summarizer (by the sheet)
- ❑ Your one day as Illustrator (by the sheet)
- ❑ Your one day as Connector (by the sheet)
- ❑ Each of four Reflections
- ❑ Observations of your oral reading skills
- ❑ Observations of your discussion skills in the group

Materials:

You will keep all your materials in a pocket folder or duotang. Make sure you always come to class prepared with your novel, your duotang, all your completed work, and a pencil. If you are the Connector, you should also have your post-it notes with you. You will lose marks if you read ahead, or if you are unprepared.