

Literature Circle Procedures

Sit with your assigned group members.

Open your binder to the sheet protectors that house either “**How to Read a Narrative**” or “**15 Questions to Ask and Answer when Dissecting a Poem**” (depending on the text you are reading).

Send one person to the bookshelf to get the texts your group is reading and a dictionary.

Decide which of the following reading methods you will choose for the day:

- Round-Robin – One group member reads at a time, rotating around in a circle. While one member reads, the others follow along with their eyes and ears.
- Popcorn – One group member reads at a time, but instead of reading in a particular order, as with Round-Robin, group members interrupt one another. This method requires a lot of patience, listening and generosity.
- Choral – Two or more group members read in unison (sounding like one voice). This is a good way to involve students who might either be struggling or shy. It is also a good way to engage all members and to ensure that all develop strong listening skills.
- Silent – All members read silently at their own pace and stop occasionally or at the end to discuss. This method is sometimes desirable when all members are of a similar, advanced ability and the material is of a very high interest level.

If there is an assigned leader, have the leader stop occasionally to ask such questions as:

- What is happening in the text? What evidence do you have?
- What do you think happened right before and/or what will happen next?
What evidence do you have?
- What literary devices do you so far notice? What evidence do you have?
- How do those literary devices function? What is their effect? What evidence do you have?
- What does this text make you think of, and why?

Also, have that leader guide the group through the answering of some or all of the questions on “**How to Read a Narrative**” or “**15 Questions to Ask and Answer when Dissecting a Poem**” depending on the text you are reading and on what the classroom teacher has assigned.

Either discuss the answers to those questions or write the answers down, depending on what the leader and/or classroom teacher recommends.

The purpose of working in literature circles is to go through the process of unearthing the mysteries of a text independently of the teacher, whose point of view is limited, and collaboratively, with peers, so that you learn the material more profoundly and develop your unique point of view more fully.

Literature circles require more activity on your part than lectures or whole-class discussions that allow you to passively sit and listen to someone else tell you what the text means.