Thematic Literature Circles

Literature Circle Overview:

For the entirety of this unit, part of your novel study will be done in small groups known as “Literature Circles.” After reading each chapter of the book, you will meet with your literature circle group to discuss what you’ve learned. The point of such discussion is to ask questions, share ideas and opinions, and work together as a group to explore the themes present within the novel so that when it comes time for the unit’s final assessment, you are ready!

There are 5 different roles within a Literature Circle:

1. Summarizer
2. Discussion Director
3. Passage Master
4. Idea Illustrator
5. Vocabulary Enricher

Literature Circle Logistics:

There are 6 chapters in Of Mice and Men. We will be reading the first chapter as an entire class, and you will be practising a miniature version of each of the Literature Circles below as practise. For chapters 2-6, each group member will rotate through each of the 5 roles. For each chapter, each group member must cover a different role (you will need to determine who is responsible for which role during your first group meeting). You may choose to either type up your role’s responsibility or write it out on paper – in any case, you MUST submit a written record of each of the 5 roles for assessment, once you are finished reading the novel.

You will be assessed based on two criteria:

1. Your contribution to group discussion
   * This will be assessed via a recording and my observation of your group’s discussion
2. Your preparedness according to your written record
   * This will be assessed via your handing in your written records at the end of the novel

Literature Circle groups are as follows:

Dylan Dima Nhicole Charsi Joana

Maaz Owen Kayla Tyler Qylie

Griffin Bailey Stephen Louis Kristine

Tanner Hayden John Famira Lemuel

Simone Valera

Decide upon, and record weekly roles for each chapter in the table below:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Chapter 2 | Chapter 3 | Chapter 4 | Chapter 5 | Chapter 6 |
| Summarizer |  |  |  |  |  |
| Discussion Director |  |  |  |  |  |
| Passage Master |  |  |  |  |  |
| Idea Illustrator |  |  |  |  |  |
| Vocabulary Enricher |  |  |  |  |  |

Literature Circle Role Descriptions

Summarizer

* Your Job: Prepare a brief (1/2 page-ish) summary of the chapter. Your group members will be counting on you to refresh their memory of the chapter reading at the beginning of the discussion.
* Details: Aim for your summary to be around 1-2 minutes in length, convey the “gist” or main idea of the chapter, and highlight the key points. Make sure to include any new plot points, character developments, changes in setting, conflicts and themes.
* Recording: Record your summary in either paragraph or point-form (either way is fine).

Discussion Director

* Your Job: Develop a list of at least 10 “big idea” questions that you and your group might want to discuss about this chapter of the book.
* Details: Don’t worry about content-based details like “where are George and Lennie from?” – rather, focus on asking questions that come from your thoughts, feelings, opinions, and concerns as you read. Think about the type of questions that will initiate great discussions, where everyone will want to add input!
* Recording: Record at least 10 questions using list format.

Passage Master

* Your Job: Locate at least 5 special passages (aka sections) within the chapter that you would like to highlight during group discussion.
* Details: When searching for passages, think about what the most important pieces of that chapter are, or which pieces really stand out in your mind. Some reasons for picking a passage: it is important for the plot or theme, it is surprising or funny, it is confusing and needs clarification, it is controversial or thought-provoking, it is well-written, or you are able to make a text-self/text/world connection with it.
* Recording: Record the page #, paragraph # (so that you can find it easily during discussion time), brief description, and reason for choosing.

Idea Illustrator

* Your Job: Draw some kind of picture related to the reading. It can be a sketch, cartoon, diagram, flow chart or stick-figure scene. You do not have to be an artist to do well with this.
* Details: When thinking about what to draw, try not to choose something that is described in vivid, concrete detail within the book. Rather, try to focus on more abstract illustrations. Consider places/people/events the chapter reminded you of, or feelings you felt while reading, big ideas you had or connections you made while reading.
* Recording: Draw your image by hand, or on the computer. Below, or on the back, write a description of what the image represents and what it means to you. Prior to sharing this description with your group during discussion, have them try to guess the meaning behind the image.

Vocabulary Enricher

* Your Job: Find, record, and define at least 10 new, interesting, or important words or phrases. Try to find words that you (or your group members) don’t (won’t) know the exact meaning of. Also, try to find good examples of figurative language (metaphor, simile, hyperbole, personification).
* Details: As you read, jot down any unfamiliar/interesting words or examples of figurative language, and their page number so that you can look them up later (this way you don’t have to interrupt your reading time to look them up). Especially try to look for important (often repeated or used unusually) words.
* Recording: Record the page #, paragraph # (so that you can find the context that it is used in during group discussion), word, and definition.