

Literature Circle Role Sheet

Questioner/Discussion Director

Name _____ Circle _____

Meeting Date _____ Reading Assignment _____

Book _____

Questioner/Discussion Director: Your job is to develop a list of questions that your group might want to discuss about this part of the book. Don't worry about the small details; your task is to help people talk over the big ideas in the reading and share their reactions. Usually the best discussion questions come from your own thoughts, feelings, and concerns as you read. You can list them below during or after your reading. You may also use some of the general questions below to develop topics to your group.

Possible discussion questions or topics for today:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

Tips: Consider

- A discussion of a work's characters: are they realistic, symbolic, historically-based?
- What motivates the characters or leads them to make the choices they do?
- An in-depth discussion of the work's events
- A discussion of any confusing passage or event
- The historical context and/or events that occurred in a particular work
- Commentary on the social, political, or economic context in which a work was written — how does the context influence the work?
- An analysis of a specific image, passage, phrase, etc.
- An analysis of a recurring image, phrase, event, etc.

Topics to be carried over to next discussion: _____

Literature Circle Roles

Literary Luminary

Name _____ Circle _____

Meeting Date _____ Reading Assignment _____

Book _____

Literary Luminary: Your job is to locate a few special sections or quotations in the text for your group to talk over. The idea is to help people go back to some especially interesting, powerful, funny, puzzling, or important sections of the reading and think about them more carefully. Also look for literary devices and make connections to the six elements of fiction. As you decide which passages or paragraphs are worth going back to, make a note why you picked each one and consider some plans for how they should be shared. You can read passages aloud yourself, ask someone else to read them, or have people read them silently and then discuss. *Remember, the purpose is to suggest material for discussion.*

Page # and Paragraph	Reason for Picking	Plan for Discussion

Literature Circle Role Sheet

Summarizer

Name _____ Circle _____

Meeting Date _____ Reading Assignment _____

Book _____

Summarizer: Your job is to prepare a brief summary of today's reading. Your group discussion will start with your 1-2 minute statement that covers the key points, main highlights, and general idea of today's reading assignment.

Summary:

Key Points:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Connections: Did today's reading remind you of anything? Explain.

Literature Circle Roles

Researcher

Name _____ Circle _____

Meeting Date _____ Reading Assignment _____

Book _____

Researcher: Your job is to dig up some background information on any relevant topic related to your book. This might include

- The geography, weather, culture, or history of the book's setting
- Pertinent information about the author and other related works
- Information about the time period portrayed in the book
- Information on any topics or events represented in the book
- Information on any topics or events that may have influenced the author
- Pictures, objects, or materials that illustrate elements of the book
- The history and derivation of words or names used in the book
- Information about any character that is based on a historical person

This is *not* a formal research report. The idea is to find some information or material that helps your group understand the book better. Investigate something that really interests you – something that struck you as puzzling or curious while you were reading.

Ways of gathering information:

- The introduction, preface, or "about the author" section of the book
- Library books and magazines
- On-line computer search or encyclopedia
- Interviews with people who know the topic
- Other novels, nonfiction, or textbooks you've read

Literature Circle Roles

Vocabulary Enricher/Word Wizard

Name _____ Circle _____

Meeting Date _____ Reading Assignment _____

Book _____

Vocabulary Enricher/Word Wizard: The words a writer chooses are an important ingredient of the author’s craft. Your job is to be on the lookout for a few words that have special meaning in today’s reading selection.

- Jot down **puzzling or unfamiliar words** while you are reading. Later, look up the definitions in either a dictionary or some other source.
- You may also run across **words that stand out** somehow in the reading – **words that are repeated a lot, used in an unusual way, or are crucial to the meaning of the text.** Mark these special words, too, and be ready to share your ideas on their usage to the group.

Note: When discussing vocabulary, you should always refer back to the text in order to examine the word in context.

Word	Pg. # & Paragraph	Definition	Reason/Plan for Discussion

Literature Circle Roles

Illustrator

Name _____ Circle _____

Meeting Date _____ Reading Assignment _____

Book _____

Illustrator: Good readers make pictures in their minds as they read. This is a chance to share some of your own images and visions. Draw some kind of picture related to the reading you have just done. It can be a sketch, cartoon, diagram, flowchart, or stick-figure scene. You can draw a picture of something that happened in your book, or something that the reading reminded you of, or a picture that conveys any idea or feeling you got from the reading. Any kind of drawing or graphic is okay – you can even label things with words if that helps. *Make your drawing(s) on any remaining space on this side and on the other side of this sheet. If you use a separate sheet of paper, be sure to staple it to this role sheet.*

Presentation Plan: Whenever it fits in the conversation, show your drawing to your group. You don't have to explain it immediately. You can let people speculate what your picture means, so they can connect your drawing to their own ideas about the reading. After everyone has had a say, you can always have the last word: *tell them what your picture means, refer to the parts in the text that you used, and/or convey what it represents to you.*

Literature Circle Roles

Travel Tracer

Name _____ Circle _____

Meeting Date _____ Reading Assignment _____

Book _____

Travel Tracer: When you are reading a book in which characters move around often and the scene changes frequently, it is important for everyone in your group to know *where* things are happening and how the setting may have changed. That's your job: carefully track where the action takes place during today's reading. Describe each setting in detail, either in words or with an action map or diagram. While you may use this sheet, you may find that you need to use an additional sheet. If that is the case, be sure to staple any additional sheets to this role sheet. *Also, always give the page locations where the scene is described.*

Describe or sketch the setting

Where today's action *begins*: _____ Page where it is described _____

Where *key events* happen: _____ Page where it is described _____

Where today's events *end*: _____ Page where it is described _____

Literature Circle Roles

Connector

Name _____ Circle _____

Meeting Date _____ Reading Assignment _____

Book _____

Connector: Your job is to find connections between the book and you, and between the book and the wider world. Consider the list below when you make your connections.

- Your own past experiences
- Happenings at school or in the community
- Stories in the news
- Similar events at other times and places
- Other people or problems that you are reminded of
- Between this book and other writings on the same topic or by the same author

Some connections I made between this reading and my own experiences, the wider world, and other texts or authors: