



What to Expect in Literature Circles

In Literature Circles, readers meet to discuss a rich piece of literature every week. Each book takes about eight weeks to read and reflect upon deeply. 3/4 students enjoy three different Literature Circle books over the course of one year.

Lit Circle Updates



Amy's Group: Read Part 3, Pages 141-169 and complete the Assignment #4, pages 17-18. Work on your poem at home for 15 minutes.



Kathy's Group: Read pages 226 - 263 - **Complete** slides 31 - 41. Make sure you complete the Part 1 ASSESSMENT: 



Yeji's Group: Read chapters 25 - 32 and complete 1-2 Thinkmarks per chapter (found on Google Classroom)



Jona's Group: Read *Las Almenbras* and the article that you chose. Reflect on the connection between the chapter and the article on the handout provided.



Tiffany's Group: Read Chapters 10, 11, 12, and 13; Complete handouts



Students should be able to talk about the books they are reading during Literature Circles and show the learning they are asked to engage with each week.

What to Expect - In Class

Lessons typically involve reading portions of text and analyzing and discussing reflections related to predictions, wonderings, connections, inferences, patterns, etc. They may also include short mini-lessons about grammar and mechanics.

The focus is always on the story and how it evolves, character development over time, themes, author intentions and techniques, and how we can appreciate strong literature.

Literature Circles culminate in student-selected projects showcasing their learning and comprehension of text, which they present to their peers.



What to Expect - At Home

Literature Circle members in grades 3/4 should **EXPECT** to do the following each week:

- ***Read*** at home on their own time. A typical weekly assignment could include 1-5 chapters of independent reading.
- ***Reflect*** at home on their own time. A typical weekly assignment could include 1-4 pages of reflection or critical thinking related to the book.
- Members also ***read, reflect, and discuss*** together at school.
- Assignments will vary based on the group.

Book Selections

Books are chosen by teachers based on a variety of factors: reading level, interest of students, exposure to genre and/or author, or potential connection to an expedition.

Examples of past books include:

- *Pax*
- *James and the Giant Peach*
- *Esperanza Rising*
- *Amal Unbound*
- *Brown Girl Dreaming*
- *El Deafo*
- *Wonderstruck*
- *Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH*
- *Guts*
- *In the Heart of the Sea*



Group Selection

- Books are chosen by teachers to pique student curiosity
- Literature Circle groups are formed based on individual needs and interests, taking into account the dynamic of the group
- Any student could be matched with any teacher, allowing them to experience learning with new people and friends



Supporting Students' Growth

Students should know that:

- The expectations for Literature Circles gradually increase over the course of the year, particularly when being asked to give opinions and cite textual evidence.
- Reflections of text happen both orally and in writing, but the expectations for writing increase as students progress.

Parents can support their child by asking questions about their books at home, and helping them make connections between the text they are reading and their own life or other texts read/viewed at home. Parents can also help keep their readers organized by reminding them about Lit Circle dates.

EVERY DAY
IS A GOOD
DAY TO
LEARN.



Essential Skills

Literature Circle members entering grades 3/4 should have the following skills:

- A working knowledge of Google Classroom
- Ability to read independently for a sustained period of time and retain what is read
- Ability to write at least 4-6 sentences of reflection on each week's reading

How We Prepare Students

As Literature Circle members prepare for middle school, they will have developed skills such as:

- Appreciation of high-quality literature
- Deeper understanding of how the story, characters, and themes evolve
- Insight into the author's intentions and techniques
- Textual analysis skills such as finding evidence of a character's feelings
- Ability to schedule and complete an extended assignment each week

EVERY DAY
IS A GOOD
DAY TO
LEARN.



Navigation

[Back to HELP](#)

