

WANTED: Literary Circle Positions

***Discussion Director¹**

Job description:

Your job is to generate a list of questions your group will want to discuss about the reading. Through your ideas you must help your peers recognize important ideas in the book. You must make sure everyone contributes to the conversation.

Qualifications:

You must have leadership abilities and a good understanding of the book in order to ask questions that will bring about thoughtful discussion. Good attendance is also a must.

Responsibilities:

You must provide at least three questions at each meeting of your literature circle. You must make sure that everyone in your group has an opportunity to speak.

Imaginer

Job description:

Your job is to help others in your group see what's going on in the story by representing key scenes from the reading. Your art work – whether it's literal or symbolic – should display effort to understand the specific passage you have chosen to visualize.

Qualifications:

You must like to draw, create collages, and other visual artwork. You must use your imagination and be able to translate what you see in your head to the paper. You must also have access to art supplies and finish the projects you've begun.

Responsibilities:

For each meeting of your literature circle, you must come prepared with one visual representation inspired by the reading assignment and be prepared to explain its significance.

¹ Some roles and descriptions are modified roles from Okura DaLie's as described in her article "Students becoming Real Readers: Literature Circles in English Class."

Connectionist

Job Description:

Your job is to see relationships between the book and the real world. You may find connections between the characters' personalities and lives, and the personalities and lives of people you know. You may find connections between the events in the book with the events at school, in the news, or from music, movies, and other pieces of literature.

Qualifications:

You must be "in the know" – know what's going on in your school, the community, and the world. Your role demands a knowledge of popular media – magazines, news shorts, the Internet, music and TV. Being well read will also help, so you can connect previously read works with what you're reading currently.

Responsibilities:

For each reading assignment, you must come prepared with two connections to the real world. Be prepared to share your connections to inspire new connections in others.

*Autobiographer

Job Description:

Your job is to pick a character from the passage we are working on and write a journal entry from that character's point of view. The voice of the entry should reflect the voice of the character and it should provide realistic insight as to what is going on in a particular character's mind.

Qualifications:

A willingness to walk a mile in another person's shoes will benefit you greatly. Also you should feel comfortable in your writing abilities and be familiar with the text. You should use the format we worked on in class when we answered the reader's response question: What might [character/person] have written in his/ her journal after this happened in the text:

Responsibilities:

Write a one page [hand written] or half a page [typed] journal entry from the point of view of a character from the book. Present your entry and discuss how you came to some of your creative choice when writing the entry.

Detective

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Job Description:

You must love to snoop around in ask.com. Your job is to seek out some interesting background information that will make the reading of this book more intriguing. You must want answers that will help others understand more thoroughly what they've been reading. Topics should include the time and place of the book, the author's life or intent, and other events objects or lesser known facts that the novel assumes the reader knows.

Qualifications:

You must be naturally conscience and have access to a library or computer so you can perform the research the role requires. You must also be able to decide whether the information on the internet you are going to present is accurate. You may want to double check your sources.

Responsibilities:

For each meeting of the group, you must share at least two facts about topics related to the reading. You may continue researching bigger, more complex topics as you read through more of the book.