

Agenda



During today's workshop, we will:

- Understand what literature circles are and how they fit into a complete literacy approach
- Consider the basics of how to get started
- Consider how to manage all aspects of literature circles
- Explore methods of integrating technology

What Are Literature Circles?

Literature Circles are small groups of students engaging in an in-depth discussion of literature. Students take turns preparing for and serving in different roles each time the literature circle meets.

Literature Circles are...	Literature Circles are not...
Reader response centered	Teacher and text centered
Part of a balanced literacy program	The entire reading curriculum
Groups formed by book choice	Teacher-assigned groups formed solely by ability
Structured for student independence, responsibility, and ownership	Unstructured, uncontrolled "talk time" without accountability
Guided primarily by student insights and questions	Guided primarily by teacher- or curriculum- based questions
Intended as a context in which to <i>apply</i> reading and writing skills	Intended as a place to do skills work
Flexible and fluid; never look the same twice	Tied to a prescriptive "recipe"

From *Getting Started with Literature Circles* by Katherine L. Schlick Noe & Nancy J. Johnson

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The Basics: Roles and the Standards



**Examine the reading standards for your grade level...
which standards potentially apply to each role?**

- Discussion Director
- Savvy/Super Summarizer
- Illustrator/Artful Artist
- Word Wizard
- Literary Luminary/Passage Picker
- Character Captain
- Creative Connector
- Passage Predictor
- Travel Tracker

Set Expectations



Help! What's Wrong with These Literature Circles...

- Read pages 20-22 of the article.
- Discuss how to address problems in small groups.
- Explore possible solutions that work!
 - Starting with a Membership Grid
 - Sharing the Airtime
 - Giving Compliments
 - Watching Videotape
 - Choosing Good Books
 - Coaching Students

Assessing Literature Circles

Various ways to assess (used individually or in combination)

- Credit for preparation
- Credit for effort
- Discussion participation (observation checklist or rubric)
- Self-Assessment
 - Preparation
 - Completion of role during discussion
 - Group dynamic

Want to Book This Workshop? Contact Us Today!



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