**Literature Circles**

**The entire class will be reading the novel *The Scarlet Letter* and focusing on character, symbolism and theme. You will be in a group of about four students and this group will be your “Literature Circle”. Literature circles are “groups of people reading the same book and meeting together to discuss what they have read”. This seems pretty straight forward and simple but each student in the group will have a different role and homework assignment for one discussion on one part of the book. For each discussion, you will rotate roles and assignments so that everyone gets the chance to participate in each way. You will be in charge of leading your own discussions as well as making decisions for yourselves.**

**Roles:**

**Discussion Director (SL1, RL1, RL4, RL6)**

* Design questions to increase the understanding of and relationship with the book
* Ask mostly “why”, “how”, and “what if” types of questions
* Check for completion of assignments
* Be an active member in all points of discussion
* ***Homework:*** Come up with a list of 4-5 questions to discuss with your group.

**Symbolizer (SL1, RL1, RL4)**

* Finds interesting passages to point out to the group
* Explains figurative language, parts of speech, imagery, and sensory description
* Be an active member in all points of discussion
* ***Homework:*** Make note of the use of Symbolism in the assigned chapters

**Stalker #1 (Hester) (SL1, RL1, RL3, RL4)**

* Finds interesting passages to point out to the group
* Explains figurative language, parts of speech, imagery, and sensory description as related to Hester
* Be an active member in all points of discussion
* ***Homework:*** Make note of lines/words/passages that add to our view and understanding of Hester as a character

**Stalker #2 (Chillingsworth, Dimmesdale, Pearl) (SL1, RL1, RL3, RL4)**

* Finds interesting passages to point out to the group
* Explains figurative language, parts of speech, imagery, and sensory description as related to C, D and P
* Be an active member in all points of discussion
* ***Homework:*** Make note of lines/words/passages that add to our view and understanding of C, D and P

**Group Process:**

Your first meeting:

1. Decide which role each of you will fill during the next meeting (at some point, you will have completed every single role at least once)
2. Make sure you have a copy of the correct role planning sheet
3. Read your assigned reading of the text and prepare for literature circle meetings

Every meeting following:

1. Use written or drawn notes to guide the group’s reading and discussion, according to the role you are filling for the session
2. Be open and make sure that everyone has a chance to participate
3. Remember that personal stories that connect to the reading and open-ended questions about the text are welcome
4. Rotate the roles that each of you will fill for the next meeting

After each group meeting:

1. Your group will present an overview of your groups thoughts on the reading
2. You and your group will participate in whole class discussions on your thoughts from the readings and discussions in small groups

Expectations for this assignment:

1. Come to class prepared
2. Be enthusiastic and ready to learn
3. Contribute positively to the discussion
4. Stay on task at all times

**NOTE:**

* **Before you start working through the text on your own, we will first look at the book as a class.**
* **If you are unsure what to expect once in your groups, picture your group members sitting in a circle.** 
  + **Each member will have a turn to lead the discussion. The discussion director might start by asking several questions to get the group talking. This will be the meat of activity for the day and should take at least 15-20 minutes if the director is doing their job well. This should not just be a “question then answer type activity” (think more Socratic Circle Discussion).**
  + **Then perhaps the Symbolizer will point out symbols in the book to discuss (each group member should also contribute what they found in their own reading).**
  + **Finally the Stalkers will present their newfound views of the characters in the book and a discussion should follow as to how Hawthorne has developed character throughout the text.**
  + **An effective meeting should take a full 30-40 minutes of class. During this time, the Director will be making sure that everyone stays on task.**
  + **I will be collecting a thorough evaluation from the Director after every class period in order to give adequate amounts of participation points.**
  + **I will also be dropping in and out of group meetings both as needed.**

**Some things to think about:**

* If one person doesn’t do their job, the rest of the group will suffer and you run the risk that your class period will be a waste of time
* Also, if you do this right, you will gain skills that will help you be a better student through even college
* HOLD EACH OTHER ACCOUNTABLE FOR THEIR ACTIONS! If one person isn’t doing their job or is getting off task, be up front with them. Talk to them about how they can become a more productive member of the group and see if there is any way to resolve any group problems before taking further action
* If problems do not resolve easily within the group and one person is consistently slacking off, please tell me in private. I will not share with anyone that it was you that told me but I need to know so the entire group doesn’t suffer
* Finally, have fun with this!!! This is meant to be a change of pace for you in a good way.

**Calendar (anticipate roughly 30 pages of reading between meetings plus your discussion preparation):**

*I reserve the right to make changes to this calendar. IF changes are made, you will be notified well in advance.*

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **MONDAY** | **TUESDAY** | **WEDNESDAY** | **THURSDAY** | **FRIDAY** |
| **October 16**  *The Crucible* A4 | **17**  *The Crucible* A4 | **18**  *Crucible* Ps | **19**  Intro to *The Scarlet Letter* | **20**  BOY Test |
| **23**  Due: Ch. 1  Whole Class Disc. | **24**  Due. Ch. 2-3 (19 pgs)  Whole Class Disc. | **25** | **26** | **27**  Meeting #1  Due: Ch. 4-7 (33 pgs) |
| **30**  Meeting #2  Due: Ch. 8-10 (27 pgs) | **31** | **November 1**  Meeting #3  Due: Ch. 11-14 (31pgs) | **2**  *End Q1*  Topics Brainstorming and Discussion | **3**  ***No School*** |
| **6**  Meeting #4  Due: Ch. 15-19 (34pgs)  *Intro to Essay Assignment* | **7**  Creative Writing | **8**  Creative Writing | **9** | **10**  Meeting #5  Due: Ch. 20-24 (43 pgs) |
| **13**  Socratic Seminar / Fishbowl Discussion | **14**  Finish Disc. (as needed)  Lesson: How to research | **15**  Library | **16**  ***Report Card Pickup***  ***-No School-*** | **17**  Library |
| **20**  Library  ***Essay Due 11:59 pm:*** The Scarlet Letter (printed and on Turnitin.com) | **21** | **22**  ***Holiday – No School*** | **23**  ***Holiday – No School*** | **24**  ***Holiday – No School*** |

**You will be graded on your participation with the group. This includes coming to class prepared, participating in all parts of the discussion (not just your own), contributing in a positive manner to each meeting, and consistent attendance.** (if you know you’ll be absent from class, please email me or a member of your group your part of that day’s discussion so your group may carry on without you.**) Your participation grade is out of 5 possible points for each group meeting . If you are absent from class, you will not receive points for the day unless you give myself or someone in the class your prepared work. The only exception is if your absence is OFFICIALLY excused because of a legitimate emergency.**

Please be sure to contact me with any questions. Do not wait until the last minute to do so. I am willing to help you with this assignment at any time!

Record Contact Information for Group Members Here: