

Routines and Expectations

LITERATURE CIRCLE
LESSON

1

Mini Lesson Statement:

Readers practice literature circle routines so they can get started right away and make the most of their learning time together.

Introduction (use this language as a guide) "Today we are going to start talking about a new way readers can share books they read with other readers...it's called literature circles! Another name is book clubs. You may have been part of literature circles, or book clubs before. If you have then you'll know they are a super fun way to talk about books with other readers. Literature circles are great because they help you think about books you read in a whole new way. They help you be a better listener and share your own thinking. We are going to start using them and I could not be more excited for you! But, before we go off into our groups, we'll need to do some practicing so we know what to expect. Today, we are going to write our own class definition of literature circles, list reasons they are awesome, and come up with some class routines to help us get started."

Defining and Listing Reasons for Literature Circles:

- Begin by starting a definition of lit. circle and inviting the class to help. Write definition on anchor chart.
- Think aloud about all the reasons lit. circles are great for readers. Start your list then ask students for their ideas. Some might include:
 - * to talk about books
 - * to learn from other readers
 - * to share opinions
 - * to recommend books
- Write both your thoughts on the class anchor chart and continue reading.

Class Routines:

- Begin by starting a list of classroom routines and expectations for lit. circle time. Get a list going on the anchor chart. You may include:
 - We get started right away
 - We have our books ready to go
 - We know where the group will meet.
 - We come prepared to listen and talk about books.
- Have ALL students turn and talk with a partner about more routine ideas and write a few answers on the class anchor chart.

After the lesson:

all group to try

Sample Anchor Chart

Readers practice literature circle routines so they can get started right away and make the most of their learning time together.

What Lit. Circles Are:

Why use Lit. Circles

Define Lit. circles as a class

Have the class help you make a list of reasons lit. circles are awesome

Our Class Routines:

Make a list of class routines for literature circles. Have the class help you with the list.

format you like

20 DETAILED READING LESSONS

ALL THE PLANNING IS DONE FOR YOU!

I can practice literature circle routines so that I am reading to do my best work.

Readers practice literature circle routines so they can get started right away and make the most of their learning time together.

What Literature Circles Are:	Why use Literature Circles:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Small groups- get together to talk about books- ask questions- share ideas	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Share ideas- Learn new perspectives- talk about books- have fun- Learn even more

Our Class Routines:

1. Come prepared to the group meeting.
2. Get started right away
3. Bring book to the literature circle meeting
4. Know where and when the group will meet
5. Stay focused
6. Avoid side conversations

**20 NOTE-TAKING PAGES FOR STUDENTS
LEARNING LASTS ALL YEAR LONG!!**

8: Whole Class- Small Group- Same Book

ss that will generate certain social iss
dents read it for themselves.

8 Models of Literature Circles:

here are 8 different ways to host literature circles, or book clubs. Pick the one you
e best to model and teach your class. You may try out more than one. Have fun!!!

1: Whole Group- Same Text

- Read book as a class or listen to it on tape.
- Have all students respond in written form in some way.
- Break into groups of 4-6 to meet simultaneously for discussion.

2: Small Group- Same Text

- Students select a text from a shortlist of options.
- Groups form and a schedule for meeting is made.
- Students read assigned number of pages and complete response form before meeting.
- Meet and discuss the text.
- Share response forms.
- Complete a project to share with the class.

3: Small Group- Same or Different Text

- Students select a text from a shortlist of options. The texts they choose do not have to be the same, but may be from the same author, genre, topics.
- Groups form (not necessarily with the same books but the books have some similarities) and a schedule for meeting is made.
- Students read assigned number of pages.
- Meet and discuss the text.
- Complete a response forms.
Class discussion and response forms with the whole class.

Sets

rganize them into sets as genres,
d make selections.
h other students who choose th
e class.

's

t of options.
onse form.
d the same book or section.
who read the same book to

al Follow-Up

book or excerpt..
ies (same author, genre
nd complete a response
pics/texts they've cho

up Follow-Up

< or excerpt..
(same author, genre

s/texts they've ch
group.

8 LITERATURE CIRCLE MODELS DEFINED

The Mini Lessons: Literature Circles

**please note that many of these lessons could be stretched out over several days. It is completely dependent on your professional opinion whether to extend them over more than one day (and of course the biggest enemy of us teachers...TIME!)

LESSON 1 <i>Establish Routines and Expectations</i>	Readers practice literature circle routines so they can get started right away and make the most of their learning time together.
LESSON 2 <i>Picking a just right literature circle book</i>	Readers think carefully about which books they want to read with a group so they can get ready for a great discussion.
LESSON 3 <i>How to be prepared</i>	Readers understand what they need to do to prepare for a literature circle so they can respect all the readers in their group.
LESSON 4 <i>Learning to listen</i>	Readers listen carefully during a literature circle discussion so they can work to understand other readers' thoughts and opinions.
LESSON 5 <i>Make personal connections</i>	Readers listen carefully in a literature circle discussion so they can make personal connections while listening to others share.

SAMPLE

Routines and Expectations

Mini Lesson Statement:

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Introduction (use this language as a guide) "Today we are going to start talking about a new way readers can share books they read with other readers...it's called literature circles! Another name is book clubs. You may have been part of literature circles, or book clubs before. If you have then you'll know they are a super fun way to talk about books with other readers. Literature circles are great because they help you think about books you read in a whole new way. They help you be a better listener and share your own thinking. We are going to start using them and I could not be more excited for you! But, before we go off into our groups, we'll need to do some practicing so we know what to expect. Today, we are going to write our own class definition of literature circles, list reasons they are awesome, and come up with some class routines to help us get started."

Defining and Listing Reasons for Literature Circles:

- Begin by starting a definition of lit. circle and inviting the class to help. Write definition on anchor chart.
- Think aloud about all the reasons lit. circles are great for class. Start your list then ask students for their ideas. Some might include:
 - * to talk about books
 - * learn from other readers
 - * to share opinions
 - * to recommend books
- Write down your thoughts on the class anchor chart and continue reading.

Class Routines

- Begin by starting a list of classroom routines and expectations for circle time. Get a list going on the anchor chart. You may include:
 - We get started right away
 - We have our books ready to go
 - We know where the group will meet.
 - We come prepared to listen and talk about books.
- Have ALL students turn and talk with a partner about more routine ideas and write a few answers on the class anchor chart.

After the lesson:

Practice the routines by choosing a small group to try it out in front of the class. Afterwards, discuss how the group did. Have the group use a mentor text you have already all read as a class to discuss as they practice literature circles.

Sample Anchor Chart

Readers practice literature circle routines so they can get started right away and make the most of their learning time together.	
What Lit. Circles Are:	Why use Lit. Circles
Define Lit. circles as a class	Have the class help you make a list of reasons lit. circles are awesome
Our Class Routines:	
Make a list of class routines for literature circles. Have the class help you with the list.	

»» **Pro Tip:** Choose which literature circle format you like best from one of the 8 models listed in this resource. Use that model to add to your class routines list. Then practice, practice, practice!

I can practice literature circle routines so that I am reading to do my best work.

Readers practice literature circle routines so they can get started right away and make the most of their learning time together.

What Literature Circles Are:	Why use Literature Circles:
SAMPLE	
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	
7.	
8.	
9.	

Is a Book Just Right for Me?

Answer these questions to help choose a book that is just right for you!

- | Does the book I'm thinking about reading... | Yes | No | Not Sure |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. have a topic I am interested in learning more about? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. have an interesting description on the back? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. make me want to keep reading after page one? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. something I can read on my own needing help with lots of words? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. I can make predictions with? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. I can understand... | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. I want to learn... | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8. I want to read something I... | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Am I Ready for My Literature Circle Group?

Check each box to make sure you are ready to meet with your group.

Ready for your literature circle?

1. I have my book ready to take to the group.

Yes	No	Not Sure
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. I read the section that was assigned.

Yes	No	Not Sure
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

3. I completed any assignments I needed to do before our group meets.

Yes	No	Not Sure
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. I have a plan for what I want to share during our group discussion.

Yes	No	Not Sure
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. I have reminded myself how to be a good listener.

Yes	No	Not Sure
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

5. I am prepared to give every group member time to talk.

Yes	No	Not Sure
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Literature Circle Assessment

Answer these questions to decide how your group did in literature.

Did everyone in your group...

1. have a chance to talk today?
2. speak clearly and loud enough to hear?
3. use signals to help know who's turn it was to talk?
4. work as a team? Did no one feel rushed?
5. act in a way that was kind and polite?
6. comment on each other's thinking?
7. bring the text to the group meeting and use it as evidence during the discussion?
8. stay on topic and focused in the discussion?
9. listen to the...

9 Student Pages!

If you answered YES to any of the questions, you need to...

If you answered YES to all the above questions, CONGRATULATIONS! You did a...

Literature Circle Checklist

Check each box off as you finish prepping students for literature circles. When all the boxes are checked, you'll know they are ready to get started!

- Did I decide on which type of lit. circle format we will use?
- Did I establish and teach routines for lit. circle groups?
- Did I gather enough book choices and give book talks?
- Am I ready to schedule meeting times for each lit. circle group?
- Am I ready to assign pages for each student?
- Do I have a plan for helping struggling students?
- Do I have project ideas for each group?
- Have I assigned roles to each group member?

Literature Circle Group Rubric

Text Title: _____
 Group Members: _____

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

	1: minimal	2: basic	3: proficient
Being Prepared	Several members of the group came unprepared to share in the literature circle discussion.	One group member came unprepared to share in the literature circle discussion.	All group members came prepared to share in the literature circle discussion.
Focus	Several members of the group appeared unfocused and easily distracted.	One member appeared unfocused and easily distracted.	All group members were focused on the group discussion.
Listening Skills	Several group members had a difficult time listening to other members share.	One group member had a difficult time listening to other members share.	All group members listened to each other, with only a few moments of interruptions.
	Members of the group referenced the text several times during the discussion.	Members of the group referenced the text several times during the discussion.	Members of the group referenced the text throughout the entire group discussion.
			Overall Score: /20

Literature Circle Group

Keep track of the groups in the class with this

Literature Circle Group Members	Text Title	Date group meets	Date group meets
1. _____			
2. _____			
3. _____			
4. _____			
5. _____			
6. _____			
7. _____			
8. _____			
1. _____			
2. _____			
3. _____			
4. _____			
5. _____			
6. _____			
7. _____			
8. _____			

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8 Teacher Pages!

Teacher Notes

Copyright

8 POSTERS

Whole Group- Same Text

1. A book as a class or to it on tape.
2. All students respond and form in some way into groups of 4-6 to study for

Small Group- Same Text

1. Students select a text from a shortlist of options.
2. Groups form and a schedule for meeting is made.
3. Students read of pages and

Small Same or Dif

1. Students select of options. They not have to be from the same
2. Groups form (in same books but similarities) and

Whole Group- Individual Follow-Up

1. Whole class listens to or reads the same book or excerpt.
2. Students select another text with similarities (same author, genre, characters, theme, problems, topic)
3. Students read assigned number of pages and complete a response form.
4. Meet in small groups to discuss different topics/texts they've chosen.

Whole Group- Small Group Follow-Up

1. Whole class listens to or reads the same book or excerpt.
2. Students select another text with similarities (same author, genre, characters, theme, problems, topic)
3. Meet in small groups to discuss different topics/texts they've chosen.
4. Complete a response form or do project as a group.

TONS OF SUPPORT!

Ready for My Literature Circle Group?

Check each box to make sure you are ready to meet with your group.

Ready for your literature circle?

- Have my book ready to take to the group.
- Read the section that was assigned.
- Completed any assignments I needed to do before our group meets.
- Have a plan for what I want to share during our group discussion.
- Reminded myself how to be a good listener.
- Am prepared to give every group member time to talk.

	Yes	No	Not Sure
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

If you answered **NO** or **NOT SURE** to any of the statements, do what you need to be ready!

Group-Evaluation Form

Name: _____ Date Met: _____
 Literature Circle Book: _____
 On a scale of 1-10 (10 being the best), how would you rate your group today?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Describe 3 things your group did really well today:

1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____

What is one thing you want your group to do differently the next time?

Group-Evaluation Form

Group Members: _____ Date Met: _____
 Literature Circle Book: _____
 On a scale of 1-10 (10 being the best), give your group a score for each statement below.

1. We all came prepared, with our book and ideas to share in the discussion. _____
2. Everyone worked hard to understand other people's thoughts and opinions. _____
3. We all shared personal connections while listening to others talk in the group. _____
4. We all had an opportunity to participate in the discussion. _____
5. We shared evidence from the book to support our thoughts and opinions. _____
6. We stayed focus the entire time and did not get distracted by anything or anyone. _____
7. We added on to each other's comments by sharing our own thinking. _____
8. We shared whether we agree or disagree with group member's comments. _____
9. We asked questions to gain a deeper understanding of the text. _____
10. We made sure not to interrupt others and everyone listened carefully. _____

Our Total Score: _____ /100

Ready for My Literature Circle

Check each box to make sure you are ready to meet with your group.

Ready for your literature circle?

- Have my book ready to take to the group.
- Read the section that was assigned.
- Completed any assignments I needed to do before our group meets.
- Have a plan for what I want to share during our group discussion.
- Reminded myself how to be a good listener.
- Am prepared to give every group member time to talk.

	Yes	No	Not Sure
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Name: _____

Self-Evaluation Form

Literature Circle Book: _____ Date Met: _____

On a scale of 1-10 (10 being the best), give yourself a score for each statement.

1. I came prepared, with my book and ideas to share in the discussion. _____
2. I worked hard to understand other people's thoughts and opinions. _____
3. I made personal connections while listening to others talk in the group. _____
4. I gave others an opportunity to participate. _____
5. I used evidence from the book to support my thoughts and opinions. _____
6. I stayed focus the entire time and did not get distracted by others. _____
7. I added on to other people's comments by sharing my own thinking. _____
8. I shared whether I agree or disagree with others' comments. _____
9. I asked questions to gain a deeper understanding of the text. _____
10. We made sure not to interrupt others and everyone listened carefully. _____

Self-Evaluation Form

Name: _____ Date Met: _____

Literature Circle Book: _____

On a scale of 1-10 (10 being the best), how would you rate yourself in the group today?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Describe 3 things you did to contribute to the group today:

1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____

What is one thing you plan to do differently the next time you get together?

Literature Circle Presentation Rubric

Text Title: _____
Group Members:
1. _____ 4. _____
2. _____ 5. _____
3. _____ 6. _____

1: minimal 2: basic 3: proficient

Volume	1	2	3
	Spoke too quietly or fast, and was very difficult to hear.	At times, spoke too quietly or too fast, and was difficult to hear.	Spoke loudly most of the time.

Response Journal Rubric

Name: _____
Text Title: _____
Assignment: _____ Date: _____

1: minimal 2: basic 3: proficient 4: advanced

	1	2	3	4
1 Came unprepared to share journal writing in the literature circle discussion.	2 Came unprepared to the literature circle group, with a partially complete written response to reading.	3 Came prepared to share in the literature circle discussion, with a completed written response to reading.	4 Came prepared and eager to share in the literature circle discussion, with a thorough written response completed.	
1 There is little writing, not enough.	2 There is some writing, including a few thoughts about the text.	3 There is an adequate amount of writing, including evidence and reactions from reading.	4 The writing is thorough and highly thoughtful, with strong connections and proof of understanding.	
2 Some parts of the response are organized, with spelling and punctuation errors.	3 Adequate attention to detail. Mostly organized, neat, and very few spelling and punctuation errors.	4 Very well organized, neat, and with no spelling or punctuation errors.		
3 Writing contains sufficient amounts of evidence from the text to support opinions.	4 Writing contains clear, complete evidence from the text to support opinions shared.			
Overall Score: /20				

Literature Circle Contract

Complete this contract and keep it somewhere safe!

_____ agree to come prepared

to each literature circle meeting.

I will make sure I'm prepared by:

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Initial each box to agree with the statements:

- I promise to read the assigned pages before our group meets.
- I promise to respect all the members of my group by listening carefully, avoiding side conversations, and not interrupting others who are speaking.
- I want to learn from other readers in the room.
- I want to learn about books with other readers will help me learn.

Date _____

RUBRICS and MORE

Literature Circle Project Ideas:

Make a Poster:

- Materials Needed:
 1. Literature circle book
 2. Poster or construction paper
 3. Markers
- Objective:
 1. To share your favorite parts of the book
 2. To highlight your opinions and how the
 3. To give a snapshot into the conversation
- Steps to Complete Project:
 1. Get together with group members. Find things that stood out from the text.

Literature Circle Project Ideas:

Host a debate:

- Materials Needed:
 1. Literature circle book
 2. Paper for planning
 3. Index cards
- Objective:
 1. To highlight important issues from
 2. To show two or more opinions about
 3. To learn how to argue a topic in a
- Steps to Complete Project:
 1. Get together with group members. Discuss which issues addressed in the text you
 2. Decide which issue you will have
 3. List all the possible opinions
 4. Assign each group member a
 5. Each group member write
 6. Practice debating each opinion to
 7. Bring index cards to a presentation being debating different

Literature Circle Project Ideas:

Act out a scene:

- Materials Needed:
 1. Literature circle book
 2. Paper for planning
- Objective:
 1. To share your favorite scene of the book with your class.
 2. To entertain the audience.
 3. To bring a scene from the book to life.

Objective:

1. To share your favorite scene of the book with your class.
2. To entertain the audience.
3. To bring a scene from the book to life.

Literature Circle Project Ideas:

Reader's Theater:

- Materials Needed:
 1. Literature circle book
 2. Paper for planning
- Objective:
 1. To share your favorite scene of the book with your class.
 2. To entertain the audience.
 3. To bring a scene from the book to life.
- Steps to Complete Project:
 1. Get together with group members. Discuss which scene or scenes you would like to create a script for. You can skip big sections and highlight the beginning, middle, end of the book.
 2. Assign roles to each member of the group. Some members may have more than one role, but everyone should have at least one part.
 3. Write a script or outline of the scene you plan to present to the audience.
 4. Practice the scene a few times before presenting to the audience. Feel free to add your own dialogue to the script, but remember to keep your script focused on the scene you are presenting.

4 PROJECTS Ideas

DISCUSSION CARDS

Glue this list into your journal. Use these discussion starters for the next time...

- One thing I'm wondering about is...
- Something that made me laugh was...
- A part that made me sad was...because...
- A part that upset me was...because...
- I'm still confused about...because...
- My favorite part was...because...
- One section I had to read again was...
- The part when...reminds of the...
- The part when...reminds of a time...
- I just couldn't believe it when...
- I was so confused when...
- If that were me in the story I would...
- One thing that stood out to me was...
- I think it's super crazy that...
- What...

Possible Response Questions

Glue this list into your journal. Think about how you can complete these questions about the book to ask your group when you meet.

- What did you think when...?
- What was your favorite part?
- Did you make any connections to...in the book?
- Were there any words you didn't understand?
- What were you wondering about when you read that...?
- What did...remind you of?
- Did you think that...when...?
- Were you excited when...?
- What was your first thought when...?
- Were you surprised too when...?
- Did you predict about...?
- Which character do you like...
- ...decided to...what...
- ...believe it when...
- ...with the part wh...

Possible Journal Responses

Glue this list into your journal. Use it to get ideas to write about the books you are reading.

- I really want to tell my literature circle group that...
- The question I have to ask the group is...
- I'm wondering if other group members thought...
- Some words I don't understand are...
- I am predicting that...because...
- If I could ask the author a question, it would be...
- I really want to talk about...because...
- So far in the book I'm thinking...because...
- A part I had to reread was...because...
- If I were...in the story, I would feel...because...
- It's not fair that...because...
- Did you all think that...too?
- One thing I'm wondering about is...
- Something that made me laugh was...because...
- A part that made me sad was...because...
- A part that upset me was...because...
- I'm still confused about...because...
- ...was...because...
- ...again was...because...
- ...because...
- ...life when...

Handwritten notes on sticky cards:

- I couldn't believe it when...! What about you?
- What predict
- I was laughing hard when...!
- Which character do you like the part...
- Did you catch the part...
- Surprised to when...?
- What was your first thought when...?
- Do you think...
- Were you...
- Were there any words you didn't understand?
- Did you think...

RESPONSE FORMS

Response Form

Name: _____ Date our Group will meet: _____

Book: _____ page numbers: _____

Directions: Answer the questions below after reading and before your group meets. Be ready to share your responses with the group.

»→ On a scale of 1-10 (10 being the best), how much did you enjoy this book so far?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Explain your score: _____

»→ What is the ONE thing you really want to share with the group that you're thinking?

»→ If you could ask the group one question, what would it be?

»→ What is one thing you are hoping to learn from your group discussion?