



The Lexile Framework for Reading in Action

Literature Circle

- Pre-Reading
- During Reading
- Post Reading

Description: When done correctly, Literature Circles are an important strategy for engaging a text on multiple levels. Literature Circles require each member of a small group to play a pre-defined role in examining a chosen text. Each role within the group is responsible for investigating a different aspect of the text and then sharing with the group to formulate a coherent picture of the text and its meaning. Literature Circles require that students read for meaning while thinking critically about the content of a text.

How It Works: Literature Circles are typically organized by a set of graphic organizers. Each graphic organizer establishes and defines the role that a student will play within their group. The roles most commonly used include Director, Illuminator, Illustrator, Connector, Word Watcher, and Summarizer, though those roles are somewhat flexible. Roles may be added or omitted as necessary. Each role has an assigned set of responsibilities and questions to consider while reading the text. The students read the text individually (usually this is done outside of class, but is sometimes done in class with short pieces of text) and then reconvene with their assigned group. Within their group, the students share their insights and comments. The Director usually summarizes the group's thoughts for the class.

How to Differentiate: Literature Circles are commonly used in ELA classes and with works of fiction, but with little modification can be used across all content areas.

- ◆ When creating groups for Literature Circles, it can be helpful to group students of varying Lexile ranges as a way to expose students with lower Lexile measures to higher order thinking.
- ◆ In certain contexts, such as each group being assigned a different segment of information on the same topic, it may be advisable to group students of similar Lexile measures together and have them read texts at a lower level as a means of scaffolding.