

Literature Circle Reading Connections



What should you be thinking or writing when you read a book on your own? Below is a list of suggestions to help you focus on important details while you are reading. Use these suggestions for ideas to write about in your journal.

Make Connections: Think about the connections between the book and you, between the book and other books you have read, and the book and world events. These are called text-to-self, text-to-text, and text-to-world connections. If you are reading and you start thinking about events in your life, characters in other books, or current events in the news then you are making these types of connections. Write them down.

Question the Text: What questions pop into your head while you are reading? Write them down and bring them to the group discussions. Here are some examples: What just happened here? Why did the character do that? Why did the author word it that way or end the book that way? Record the page number (pg. 5). Discuss these with the group and write a reflection on the response.

Worth Quoting: Many famous quotes come from books. Write down a passage or a quote that touched you and is worth sharing. Explain why the quote impacted you. These are what we refer to as “words of wisdom” or words to live by. Record the page number (pg. 6).

What’s That Word: If you find words that are unfamiliar or confusing and they prevent you from understanding the story or article, write them down. If it is important to know the word, use context clues or the dictionary. Hint: some words may be more obvious because they are repeated.

Significant Settings: Settings are an important part of a story. It is important to know *where* events are happening and *how* and *why* the setting changes. Describe the setting related to major events. Write a descriptive paragraph or draw a map or diagram. Think about why the author decided on that time or place.

Summarize the Reading: Prepare a brief summary to share with your group. If there are several events taking place, focus on an event that impacts the character the most and explain why.

Illustrator: Good readers visualize the characters and events in their mind as they read. Draw a picture that relates to the reading: sketch, cartoon, diagram, flow chart, or scene. Write a 2-3 sentence summary or write a thoughtful caption.

Researcher: Look up background information on a related topic: geography, weather, culture, historical period, objects, music, author, etc. Share it with the group. Cite your source (book, magazine, web site, encyclopedia, interview, textbook, etc.).