

Literature Circles Contract

Literature set during or influenced by the American Revolution

I, _____ will be reading, discussing, and analyzing the book, _____ by _____

over the next fifteen (15) days. I will be responsible for the following:

1. **I will work in a polite manner with my partner(s).** This includes taking turns speaking and listening during discussion time and making sure that all group members "share the spotlight." There is a difference between a *discussion* and a *lecture*!
2. I will help my partner(s) **prepare a 2-week reading plan** by devising a reading schedule with my partner(s) in which we will divide the reading into fifteen (15) equal sections. One section is to be read each day. Reading will begin on Wednesday, December 5th and should be completed by Wednesday, December 19th.
3. I will **come to class each day with my book, having read the expected pages.** If I have read beyond the agreed pages, I will **NOT** blab about upcoming events or make so-called *predictions* when I already know the answers.
4. **Each Tuesday and Thursday, I will discuss the assigned question of the day** with my partner(s). On my own for Tuesday and Thursday's night homework, I will write a $\frac{3}{4}$ page summary of my answer to the assigned question of the day. Let's be clear on this – the discussion occurs as a group but the writing is your own, individual work. This assignment goes on a single piece of paper and should be placed in the correct Homework Bin on its due date.
5. **Each Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, I will spend at least fifteen (15) minutes** with my book group sharing my thoughts and listening to others' observations about the text. This is frequently the best part of literature circles and you may want to spend more than 15 minutes discussing the reading. Using your **daily writing exercise** (see below) is a good way to keep the discussion going.

Daily Writing Exercise

Retelling of the section
Connection (to self/other text/world)
Visualization

Questions & Predictions
Feeling about author's craft
Vocabulary card

6. I will complete and turn in one set of Daily Writing Exercises each Wednesday.
7. I will be responsible for any work to be completed when I am absent.
8. I understand that failure to honor this contract will result in my grade being lowered.

Signed,

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NAME: _____

Calendar for Literature Circle

Book: _____

Number of pages per night: _____

Group members: _____

<p>Wednesday 5th</p> <p>Read to _____</p> <p>Daily Writing Exercise</p> <p>Summary person</p>	<p>Thursday 6th</p> <p>Read to _____</p> <p>Daily Writing Exercise</p> <p>Write up discussion question response – Due tomorrow</p>	<p>Friday 7th</p> <p>Read to _____</p> <p>Daily Writing Exercise</p> <p>Summary person</p>	<p>Saturday 8th</p> <p>Read to _____</p> <p>Daily Writing Exercise</p>	<p>Sunday 9th</p> <p>Read to _____</p> <p>Daily Writing Exercise</p>
<p>Monday 10th</p> <p>Read to _____</p> <p>Daily Writing Exercise</p> <p>Summary person</p>	<p>Tuesday 11th</p> <p>Read to _____</p> <p>Daily Writing Exercise</p> <p>Write up discussion question response – Due tomorrow</p>	<p>Wed 12th</p> <p>Read to _____</p> <p>Daily Writing Exercise</p> <p>Summary person</p> <p>First set of Daily Writing Exercise is DUE today</p>	<p>Thursday 13th</p> <p>Read to _____</p> <p>Daily Writing Exercise</p> <p>Write up discussion question response – Due tomorrow</p>	<p>Friday 14th</p> <p>Read to _____</p> <p>Daily Writing Exercise</p> <p>Summary person</p>
<p>Saturday 15th</p> <p>Read to _____</p> <p>Daily Writing Exercise</p>	<p>Sunday 16th</p> <p>Read to _____</p> <p>Daily Writing Exercise</p>	<p>Monday 17th</p> <p>Read to _____</p> <p>Daily Writing Exercise</p> <p>Summary person</p>	<p>Tuesday 18th</p> <p>Read to _____</p> <p>Daily Writing Exercise</p> <p>Write up discussion question response – Due tomorrow</p>	<p>Wed 19th</p> <p>Read to _____</p> <p>Daily Writing Exercise</p> <p>Summary person</p> <p>Second set of Daily Writing Exercise is DUE today</p>

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You should aim to complete about one (1) of these per day. You should complete all six (6) in a one week period. A set, or one each of the exercises, will be due each Wednesday, December 12th and 19th. **Each writing exercise should include:** your NAME, the date, the book title, the page numbers of the section read/referred to and, of course, the actual exercise.

Daily Writing Exercise	Expectation
Retelling of the section (5-7 sentence paragraph)	Retell the plot (story events) in the section. (If you have a large group, I suggest that you assign or rotate this assignment for the M, W, F discussions)
Connection (to self/other text/world) (5-7 sentence paragraph)	Explain or describe the detail in the book that prompted your connection. Then, explain your connection.
Feeling about author's craft (5-7 sentence paragraph)	There are two ways to approach this: through character and through passage analysis. Week ONE: Character analysis – Pick a character and describe them in detail. Focus more on personality and traits than physical description. Support your analysis with quotes (and page numbers) from the text. Week TWO: Passage analysis – Choose a section from the book that is particularly interesting. It could be a vivid description of a setting or a character interaction. It might be some really good dialogue, a new fact, or even metaphorical language! Record the passage and share your reflection about why it is important or interesting to you. Alternatively, you may choose to photocopy the page/passage and write your reflection on the back of the photocopy.
Questions & Predictions (5-7 sentence paragraph)	What are you wondering about after reading a section? Are you confused about a character's action or decision? Do you have a prediction about what will happen next? Give me a sentence or two of context and then share your question and your prediction. You should be able to support the reasons behind your prediction as in, "I think this will happen because..."
Visualization	Illustrate it! Something in the book has given you a mental picture. Share it!
Vocabulary card	When you come across a word that you do not understand or want to understand more clearly, look it up! Then create a Frayer model vocabulary card just like we did during vocabulary weeks.

See the "view" box in google docs to see this page as a form. Copy it and add it to your dropbox.

Literature Circles Rubric

Area/Task	4 Exceeds Expectations / Proficient with Distinction	3 Meets Expectations/ Proficient	2 Not Quite There/ Partially Proficient	1 Below Expectations/ Substantially Below Proficient
Daily Writing Exercises	<p>Meets all criteria in score 3, plus</p> <p>-it shows outstanding insight in the subject area.</p>	<p>-Set (one each of the six items) is complete.</p> <p>-Reading work shows proficient comprehension and analysis.</p> <p>-Amount of reading accomplished is commensurate with student's ability.</p>	<p>- One or two items from the weekly set may be incomplete or missing.</p> <p>-Reading responses show some comprehension and analysis.</p> <p>-Student could have read more based on his/her ability.</p>	<p>-Two or more of the items from the weekly set are incomplete or missing.</p> <p>-Reading responses show little comprehension and analysis.</p> <p>-Amount student read is far below student's ability.</p>
Assigned Question of the Day Writing Work (constructed response)	<p>Meets the criteria in score 3, plus</p> <p>-the response is extremely well balanced; organized in a particularly creative/effective way</p> <p>-Writing shows outstanding insight.</p>	<p>-Writing is proficient in response to focus, organization, details, voice, and G.U.M.s.</p> <p>-Introduction, body, and conclusion are apparent and organized in an effective manner.</p> <p>-Transitions used appropriately.</p>	<p>- Writing is partially proficient and limited in communicating about the topic.</p> <p>-It may have unclear areas, disorganization, or lack details.</p> <p>-The written piece might be incomplete.</p>	<p>-Little to no work has been submitted.</p> <p>-Writing is extremely limited in communicating paper's topic.</p> <p>-Written work may appear as a list or be very limited in its scope.</p>
Group Work	<p>Meets the criteria in score 3, plus</p> <p>-demonstrates leadership in the discussion group</p> <p>-contributes particularly insightful reflections or comments to the group</p>	<p>-Prepared for discussion (read agreed upon number of pages) and shares thoughts & reflections in a polite and respectful manner</p> <p>-Contributes questions & comments that are on topic</p> <p>-Demonstrates attentive eye contact & body language</p>	<p>-Student may not have completed the agreed upon amount of reading</p> <p>-May have difficulty sharing & contributing</p> <p>-May attempt to get group or peers off topic</p> <p>-Demonstrates some inattention to group or individual speakers</p>	<p>-Little to no effort demonstrated.</p> <p>-Discusses off topic material</p> <p>-Engages in disrespectful behavior toward others</p> <p>-Monopolizes the conversation</p> <p>-Disengages from group or individual speakers</p>
Respect & Effort		<p>-Student shows respect toward students, staff, and the learning environment</p> <p>-Student shows initiative and positive work habits</p>	<p>-Engages in disrespectful behavior toward others, on occasion</p> <p>-Some late work; fails to redo below proficient work</p>	<p>-Engages in disrespectful behavior toward others, repeatedly</p> <p>-Loses a book</p> <p>-Incomplete or missing work</p>