

The page features five decorative circles of varying shades of light purple. One circle is hollow with a thin outline, while the other four are solid. They are arranged in two rows: three in the top row and two in the bottom row. The text is centered over the top row of circles.

Literature Circles

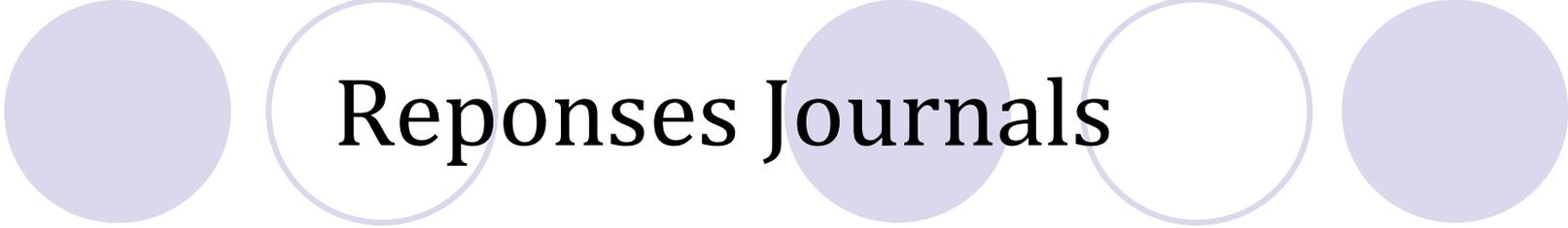
Amy LePage



- In literature circles, small groups of students gather together to discuss a piece of literature in depth. The discussion is guided by students' response to what they have read.
- There is *no one way to do literature circles*. Literature circles look different in every classroom.
- Collaboration is at the heart of this approach. Students reshape and add onto their understanding as they construct meaning with other readers.
- Literature circles guide students to deeper understanding of what they read

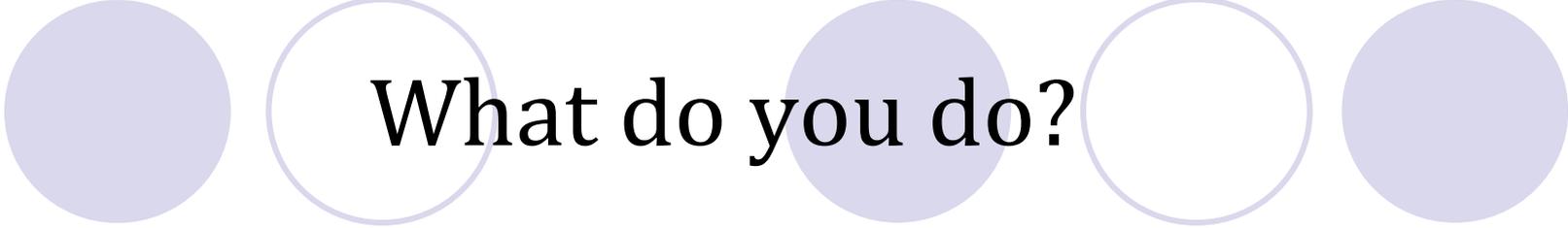
Setting up Literature Circles in your classroom

- Choose 3 or 4 books (easy, average, and challenging) and obtain multiple copies of each title.
- Present the books to students and allow them to write their preferences in order on an index card.
- Get excited about the books by reading the back cover of each one.
- Use that information and your knowledge of their reading skills to create reading groups.
- Use a spiral notebook for a response journal
- Students can read alone, with a partner or in groups, then they individually write in their own journals their thoughts as they read. You can assign how many pages they need to read so when they meet they are all together on the same chapter/pages.
- Each student has a task that they have to complete before they meet with their group
- They can meet in their groups once a week or several times a week, but they need to have the pages read, responses in their journals, and their task complete.



Reponses Journals

- Students respond to the text and do the tasks all in their literature circles response journal.
- You can use these for grades also.
- Make your **own** comments in their journals.

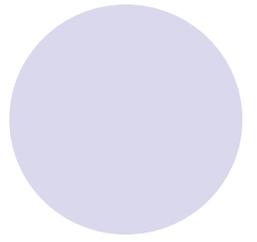
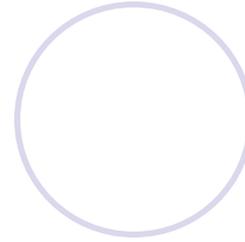
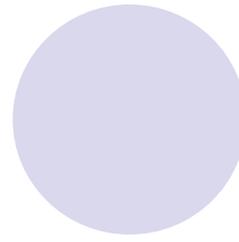
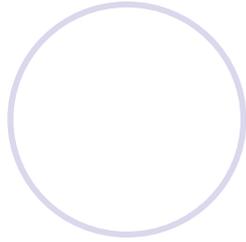
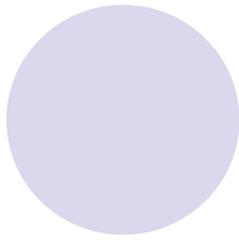


What do you do?

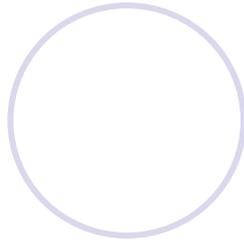
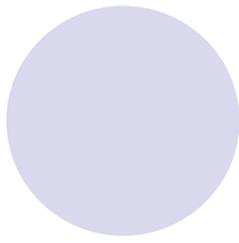
- While students are all reading independently you can meet up with a group and you can listen in and discuss the book. (like a guided reading group) Do this three times a week with your struggling readers.
- You can circulate the room and listen to a few of your struggling readers.
- Pick one day where the children do their book discussions and during that time you can meet with each group, then assign their next tasks and page numbers to read for the following week.

Skills to Introduce Prior to Literature Circles

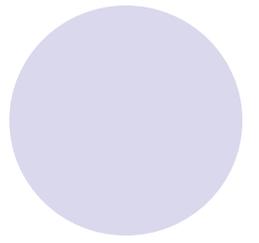
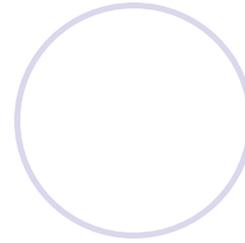
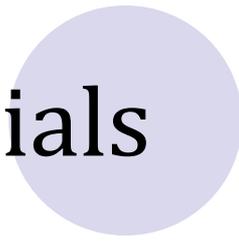
- Prior to implementing Literature Circles, you will want to introduce the skills that students will be expected to use in completing the literature circle tasks. Use your anthology, a class novel, picture book or read-aloud to introduce the following skills:
- Summarizing a chapter or section of a book
- Writing good discussion questions
- Answering questions in complete sentences
- Completing [graphic organizers](#) (Thinking Maps)
- Choosing vocabulary words and making guesses about their meaning (based on context clues)
- Looking up words in a dictionary and choosing the definition that fits the context clues



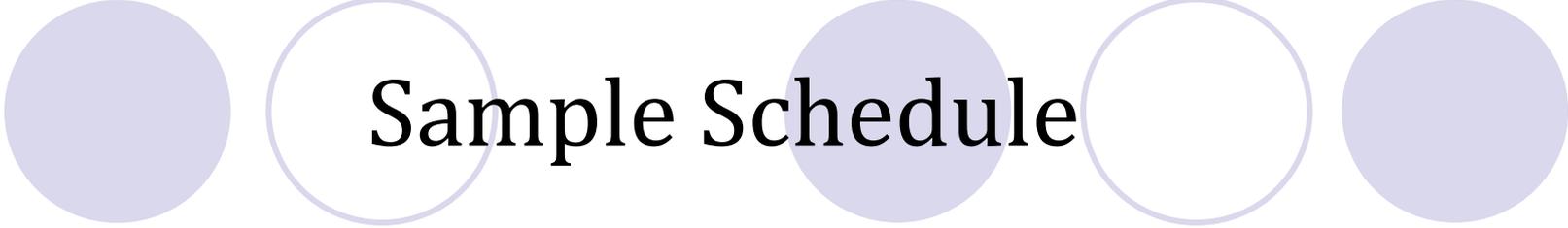
- You may want to start out with a read aloud book to show how to respond first. Discuss how to do each task as a whole group and do some think-pair-share with the students, then gradually work to literature circles



Materials



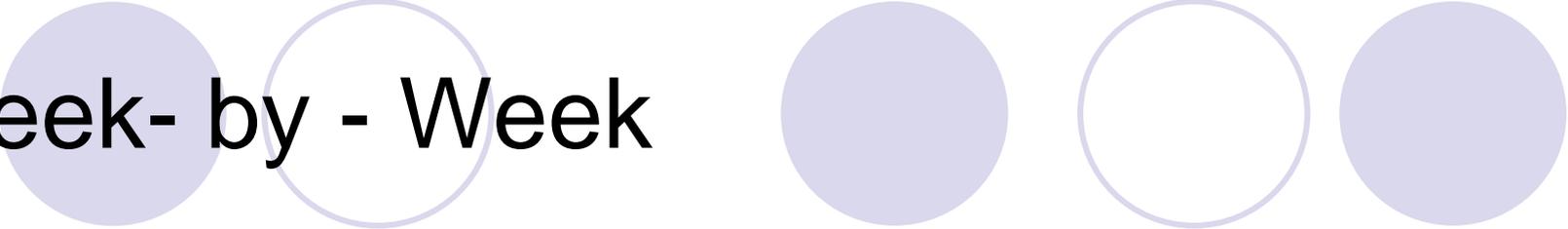
- Keep the materials (books and response journals) in your classroom at all times so they don't get misplaced in desks or lost.
- You can also easily pull them out during literature circle time



Sample Schedule

- **Unit at a glance (3-4 weeks)**
- Book talk and book selection first day
- Put them in their groups so they know all the members in their group and let them just flip through the book and talk about what they think it might be about
- Go around to each group and assign page numbers to be read to by the end of week (or you can do per day).
- Go back and read independently for 20 minutes

Week- by - Week



- Read: 20 minutes (this is where you meet with struggling readers or meet up with a group)
- Write in journal: 15 minutes
- Meet in group to discuss: 10 minutes (or work on their task)
- Debrief as a whole class: 10 minutes