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WELCOME TO LITERATURE CIRCLES!

As part of Lit Circles, you will need to keep all the information given to you in your binder behind Literature.

**Lit Circle Contract:**

Name: Block \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Novel: by

Group Members:

Schedule of Readings:

1st meeting date:

2nd meeting and Book ***completed*** by:

Expectations:

1. I will bring the book with me to class every day.

2. I will have the assigned readings read by the assigned dates.

I, promise to do my best to follow the rules and complete the Lit Circle assignments to the best of my ability. I know that I can always ask for help, and that I will have to complete my homework when it is due. I will do this so that I do not affect my group’s success, or my own. I will pay close attention to the due dates so that I always have my work completed on time. I understand that to come unprepared to participate in my literature circle will result in the loss of points on my grade.

Student Signature Date

Expectations for Group Meetings:

**1. COME PREPARED—**Bring questions, annotated book and thoughts about each reading. Be prepared to join in the discussion and support your thoughts. You interfere with the success of other members in your group and with your own success every time you come to class unprepared. Making good use of class time will help you!

**2.ALLOW** everyone to actively participate. Everyone should feel supported. Allow others to finish their comments before talking. Encourage others to share their opinions.

**3.** DISAGREE constructively. No put downs or rudeness.

**What to do when YOUR group isn’t meeting:**

1. If the teacher is meeting with a group, only interrupt if it is important.

2. Be respectful of your classmates and don’t distract them by talking, walking around, making noises, etc.

**3. PREPARE** for when YOUR group is supposed to meet; This includes reading the novel, annotating, and completing your questions. You may also work on your project if you are prepared for the group meeting.

**Before Discussion Requirements:**

**Before your group meets, you must complete the following:**

**1.** Your first and most important task is to READ. This will guide discussions and you will be better able to contribute to the discussion group.

2. Annotate your section using the attached guidelines.

3. Write your five questions for the section you are to read.

**AFTER THE DISCUSSION GROUP MEETS:**

**After the group discussion, make an entry in your journal:**

**1.** A summary of what was read using Somebody-wanted-but-so-then.

**2.**  A full page of writing using the attached journal choice sheet. You may have to answer more than one prompt to get a full page of writing. Be sure to restate the question in your response so that’s it’s clear what you are answering.

**Journal Choice Sheet**

Characters

* Which characters in the story do you like? What in the text makes you feel that way?
* Which character would you most like to have as a friend? What in the text makes you feel that way?
* Choose a situation from the story and tell how the character reacted (words, actions, thoughts). Would you have reacted the same way?
* Choose one event from the story. Tell how the event would be different if the character did the opposite of what they did in the story.
* Do you know anyone like the main character in the story? Compare and contrast the character and the person you know.
* Write about a part in the story where you agree or disagree with what the main character does.
* What character trait do you like most about the main character? Use examples from the text.
* Describe how the main character changed from the beginning of the story to the point in the story that you just read.

Setting

* How is the setting important to the meaning of the story?
* Compare and contrast the setting of the story with the town where you live.
* How would the story change if the setting was in the past (or the future)?
* Would you like the live where the story takes place? Why or why not?

Plot

* Write a summary of the story to this point.
* What do you think is the most important event so far? Explain your answer using evidence from the text.
* Describe the problem that the character faced. What are some possible solutions for that problem?
* Think of another title for the story, and explain how it is related to the plot.

Personal Response

* Which character in the story do you care about the most? What did the author do that made you feel that way?
* What does the author do to make the story interesting?
* How does the author make the characters seem real?
* Write about something the author did that you might try in your own writing.
* Make a t-chart in your journal. On one side, write things that you like about the story. On the other side, write things that you don’t like about the story so far.