

Stepping into the Literature Circle

*pick up
the*

My Notes

Artist: Your job is to create an illustration related to the reading. It can be a sketch, cartoon, diagram, flow chart, or other image. It can be of a scene, an idea, a symbol, or a character. Show your illustration to the group without any explanation. Ask each group member to respond, either by making a comment or asking a question. After everyone has responded, then you may explain your picture and answer any questions that have not been answered.

Before Reading

1. Your teacher will assign roles and put you in Literature Circle groups to practice close reading and discussion of texts with a classic fairy tale. Review the directions for your role on the previous page. Also review the skills you learned in the following activities, where you were actually practicing the skills needed for each role:

Discussion Leader (Activity 2.8)

Diction Detective (Activity 2.9)

Reporter (Activity 2.10)

Bridge Builder (Activity 2.11)

Artist (Activity 2.11)

Create a placecard to use during the meeting. Include the role title and a symbolic visual on the front. On the back, write a brief description of your role.

During Reading

2. Keep a double-entry journal with notes that will help you prepare for your role. Remember to copy or summarize important passages on the left side of your journal. On the right-hand side:
 - The Discussion Leader will keep track of questions to ask.
 - The Diction Detective will record interesting words and phrases, especially figurative language.
 - The Reporter will take notes on the setting, plot, and characters, especially shifts or changes.
 - The Bridge Builder will take notes on predictions, connections (text to self, text to text, and text to world), and conflict.
 - The Artist will take notes on how to create a visual representation.
3. Meet with the other students who are also preparing for the role you have been given. Share the notes that you took and discuss how you can use them in your Literature Circle meetings.
4. When your role is prepared, go back to your Literature Circle group. Review the guidelines for communicating in discussion groups, which you made in Activity 2.8.

- At your teacher’s direction, team up with another group to use the fishbowl strategy. While the inner circle is discussing the text, the outer circle will take notes on the Discussion Group Note-taking Graphic Organizer. After the first discussion, switch places so that the inner circle becomes the outer circle for the second discussion.
- Give each circle (inner and outer) a chance to respond to the discussion, commenting on the strengths and challenges that each group had in its analysis of the text. Fill out the Group Meeting Reflection Chart on the following page. Reflect on what you can improve on during your Literature Circle meeting for the upcoming Embedded Assessment.

Discussion Note-taking Graphic Organizer

An Interesting Point Made by a Member of the Discussion Group	Support the Person Provided	My Thoughts

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Group Meeting Reflection Chart

	Challenges	Goals
Speaking		
Listening		
Understanding the Text		

Check Your Understanding

Reflect on your discussion group experiences and how Literature Circle discussions contributed to your close reading of text and your ability to analyze meaning and make connections to ideas within and outside of the text.