

Bean Bag
Discussions
9 ROLES
You
Can
Play!



Bean Bag Discussions require that each member participates. You must choose to take on a role. It is your choice which role you would like, and you can choose up to three, however you must choose at least one.:

1. Discussion Facilitator

This role involves writing down a list of questions that you will ask the group. Questions should be open-ended and should not be "yes/no" questions. Questions that you might ask could be: "What was going through your mind when you read that passage?" or "How did the main character change? What happened to make him change?"

2. Illustrator

As the term implies, this job entails drawing, sketching, or painting a picture, portrait or scene relating to the appropriate section of the book you are reading. Collages from magazines, images from the internet, and other media can also be used. The student with this role then shares the artwork with the group, explaining the passage(s) that relate to the art. Often students who do not like to write do very well with this role. The pictures usually generate interesting group conversations.

3. Connector

This role involves locating several significant passages in the book you are reading and connecting these passages to real life. The connections might relate to school, friends or family, home, the community, or they might relate to movies, celebrities, the media etc. Students should also feel free to connect incidents or characters with other books that they have read. Of all the roles, this role is often the most personal in its focus.

4. Summarizer

This role involves preparing a brief summary of the books everyone is reading for that day's meeting. The summary should include the main ideas or events to remember, major characters, symbols or other significant highlights of the passage. Good summarizers are important to literature circles, as they can help their peers see the overall picture (DaLie, 2001). The summarizer should use a Venn diagram to fill in notes from other readers in the group.

5. Word Wizard

This role is to record important words for that day's reading. Words that are unusual, unknown, or that stand out in some way are usually chosen by the student. Their page number and definition is also recorded. You should record items from your own book and you can ask others to record one or two from their own books.

6. Passage Pickers

This role involves locating a few significant passages of text that are thought-provoking, funny, interesting, disturbing, or powerful. The quotations are copied down with properly cited page numbers. A student with this task can read the passages out loud him/herself or ask other group members to read any from their books as well. Commentary and discussion will be generated from these passages.

7. Travel Tracer

This role involves recording where the major shifts in action or location take place in the novel for the reading section. Keeping track of shifts in place, time, and characters helps students keep track of important shifts in the novel. Artistic students also are drawn to this role, as artwork can be incorporated into this role as well. The student's role is to describe each setting in detail, using words or maps that illustrate the action.

8. Investigator

This role includes investigative work where background information needs to be found on any topic relating to the book. Historical, geographical, cultural, musical or other information that would help readers connect to the novel is often researched and shared with the group. The research is informal in nature, providing small bits of information in order that others can better understand the novel.

9. Figurative Language Finder

This role includes identification of various types of figurative language, including but not limited to simile, metaphor, personification, hyperbole, and idiom. This may lead to discussion about the author's craft - why the author chose to use those particular words or phrases, and whether or not they were effective. This in-context identification can be more relevant and memorable than isolated instruction by the teacher of these types of tools.

Next Meeting Date: ___/___/___

Name:

Task Chosen:

Roles based information found at:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Literature_circle

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