










Reading Circles in EFL

Teacher accompanied classroom discussion groups among EFL learners who get together in class to share their ideas and comment on others' interpretations about the previously determined chapter of a graded reader in English, using their 'role-sheets' and 'student journals' for the discussions in collaboration with each other.

Sample 'Reading Circle' Tasks:

 <p style="text-align: center;">QUESTIONS</p> <p>Write general questions about the story. (characters, theme, ending, what's next, ...)</p> <p>Make sure that everyone has a chance to speak and join the discussion.</p> <p>Call on each member to present their prepared information.</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">SUMMARY</p> <p>Read the story and make notes about the characters, events, and ideas.</p> <p>Find the key points that everyone must know to understand and remember the story.</p> <p>Retell the story in a short summary (one or two minutes) in your own words.</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">VOCABULARY</p> <p>Choose words that you think are repeated often, used in an unusual way, important to the meaning of the story</p> <p>Explain the meanings of these five words in simple English to the group.</p> <p>Tell the group why these words are important for understanding this story.</p>
 <p style="text-align: center;">PASSAGES</p> <p>Make notes about passages that are important for the plot, or that explain the characters, or that have very interesting or powerful language.</p> <p>You might choose a passage to discuss because it is: important, informative, surprising, funny, confusing, well-written</p>		 <p style="text-align: center;">ANALYSIS</p> <p>Map the story using a graphic organizer and be prepared to explain the parts of your map.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - exposition - rising action - climax - falling action - denouement
 <p style="text-align: center;">CONNECTIONS</p> <p>Find connections between the story and the world outside.</p> <p>Make connections to your own experiences, or to the experiences of friends and family, or to real-life events.</p> <p>Tell the group about the connections and ask for their comments or questions or if they can think of any connections themselves.</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">CULTURE</p> <p>Look for both differences and similarities between your own culture and the culture in the story.</p> <p>Make notes about two or three passages that show these cultural points.</p> <p>Read each passage to the group and ask the group some questions about these, and any other cultural points in the story.</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">RESEARCH</p> <p>Find some background information on any relevant topic related to your book.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the geography, weather, setting - the author and other related works - time period portrayed in the book - pictures or objects illustrating the book - characters based on historical persons