

Before the Conversations Turn Grand
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Reading a Novel

Willingness to Read Another
Enjoyment
Knowledge of World and Self
Vicarious Experience
Basic Literal Comprehension
Cultural Capital
Sense of Novel as a Genre
Ability / Willingness to Discuss the Book
Develop a Social Imagination
Connections to Other People

Before Conversations Turn Grand

Reading Aloud Daily
Whole Class Interactive Discussions
Knowledge of Elements of Literature
Quotes/Poetry/Picturebook Groups
Using Chapter Book as Model
Whole Group Book Log
Ethos of Engagement
Ethos of Intellectualism

Selecting Novels

Based on Interest
What is an Appropriate Text?
Levels or Labels?
Book Recommendations
Books in Series
Books on CD
Partner Reading
Parent Volunteers

Literature Study Cycle

Community of Readers
Preparation
Celebration
Presentation
Discussion

Lit Study Contract

I agree to read the book (insert title of book here).

I will finish the book by the time the group decides.

I will take notes in my book log and use them to help me in our discussion of the book.

I will bring my book and book log to class EVERYDAY!!!

I will PARTICIPATE in the discussion of the book.

I agree to help other students to better understand the book we have read.

I agree to work together in a group to celebrate finishing the book by creating a presentation for the class.

Date:

Student Signatures:

Preparations

Choosing Books

Doing Book Talks

Making Choices Available

Signing Up

Signing a Contract

Reading the Book

Using a Book Log

Checking for Challenges

Book Log Categories

Ideas about the main character

Ideas about the setting

Impressions

Literary Connections

Personal Connections

Wonderings

Notes about the story structure

Big Ideas to share

Discussions

Modeling the Process - The Goldfish Bowl

Passionate Attention

Moving From Conversation to Dialogue

Teacher as Facilitator / Listener

Supporting & Challenging

Pulling Ideas Together

Setting Agendas

Having Faith in Readers

Helpers & Unhelpers

Helpers:

Look at each other when speaking
Ask each other questions
Listen and care about what each other thinks and says
Talk so everyone can hear
Give everyone a chance to talk
Learn to politely disagree

Blockers:

Playing around in groups
Being rude
Constantly interrupting others
Allowing one person to do all the talking
Not coming to the group with your own ideas
Not talking
Saying you are done when there may be more to say

Presentations

Sharing Ideas with Others
Multiple Ways of Knowing
Extending Understandings
Creating Visual Display

Self-Evaluations of Lit Study

Did group members listen to each other's ideas?
Did members ask each other any questions?
Was anyone rude or impolite when talking?
Did you change any of your ideas after the discussions?
Did you go back and look at the book for ideas?
What big ideas did you generate from your readings and discussions?

So Where Do I Start ?

Increase Your Knowledge of Children's Literature
Use Classroom-Based Assessments to Know Your Readers
Read Aloud on Daily Basis
Begin Interactive Discussion Ideas
Offer More Book Talks & Choices
Where Do I Go Next ?
Read More Children's Literature
Keep Reader Response Log
Teacher Literature Study Groups
Record and Assess Lit Discussions
Professional Readings
Staff Development Opportunities