Literature Circle Roles

**Discussion Director:** Your role demands that you identify the important aspects of your assigned text and develop questions your group will want to discuss. Focus on the major themes or “big ideas” in the text and your reaction to those ideas. What interest you will most likely interest those in your group. You are also responsible for facilitating your group’s discussion.

**Discussion Director:** Must come up with 10 good discussion questions and facilitate discussion.

**Sample Questions:**
What were you thinking about as you read?
What did the text make you think about?
What do you think this text/passage was about?
How might other people (of different backgrounds) think about this text/passage?
What one question would you ask the writer if you got the chance? Why?
What are the most important ideas/moments in this text/section?
What do you think will happen next—and why?
What was the most important change in this section? How and why did it happen?

**Summarizer:** Prepare a brief summary of the day’s reading. Use the questions below to help you decide what to include. In some cases, you might ask yourself what details, characters, or events are so important that they would be included on a test. If it helps you to organize the information, consider making a numbered list or timeline.

**Summarizer:** Prepare an original 3-page (handwritten double-spaced) or 1 ½ type-written (double-spaced) summary.

**Sample Questions:**
What are the most important events in the section you read?
What makes them so important?
What effect do these events have on the plot or the other character?
What changes—in plot, character, or tone—did you notice when you read?
What questions might appear on a test about this section you read?
What might be a good essay topic for this section of the story?

**Word Watcher:** While reading the assigned section, you watch out for words worth knowing. These words might be interesting, new, important, or used in unusual ways. It is important to indicate the specific location of the words so the group can discuss these words in context.

**Word Watcher:** Must find 25 words as described in role descriptions and write down the page # its found on, definition in context, part of speech, and an original sentence for each word
Sample Questions:
Which words are used frequently?
Which words are used in unusual ways?
What words seem to have special meaning to the characters or narrator?
What new words do you find in this section?
What part of speech is this word?
What is the connotative meaning of this word?
What is the denotative meaning of this word?

Passage Master: You find passages your group would like to/should hear read aloud. These passages should be memorable, interesting, puzzling, funny, or important. Your notes should include the quotations but also why you chose them, and what you want to say about them. You can either read the passage aloud yourself or ask members of your group to read roles.

Passage Master: Choose 10 direct quotes from that week’s reading, identify the speaker, and explain why it is significant.

Sample Questions:
What were you thinking about as you read?
What did the text make you think about?
What do you think this test/passage was about?
How might other people (of different backgrounds) think about this text/passage?
What one question would you ask the writer if you got the chance? Why?
What are the most important ideas/moments in this text/section?
What do you think will happen next—and why?
What was the most important change in this section? How and why did it happen?

Connector: Your job is to connect what you are reading with what you are studying or with the world outside of school. You can connect the story to events in your own life, news events, political and/or historical events, and popular trends. Another important source of connections is books you’ve already read. The connections should be meaningful to you and those in your group.

Connector: Prepare a 3-page (handwritten double-spaced) or 1 ½ type-written (double-spaced) connection as explained in the description.

Sample Questions:
What connections can you make to your own life?
What other places or people could you compare this story to?
What other books or stories might you compare to this one?
What other characters or authors might you compare to this one?
What is the most interesting or important connection that comes to mind?
How does the historical context contribute to the text?
How does this section relate to those that came before it?