

Hybrid Lit Circle

Small Group Instruction: For learners 'solidly' on grade level or above

Literature Circles:

In literature circles, small groups of students gather together to discuss a piece of literature in depth. The discussion is guided by students' response to what they have read. You may hear talk about events, characters, key details, author's craft in the text. Literature circles provide a way for students to engage in critical thinking and reflection as they read, discuss, and respond to books. Collaboration is at the heart of this approach. Students reshape and add onto their understanding as they construct meaning with other readers. Finally, literature circles guide students to deeper understanding of what they read through structured discussion.

Adapted from Literature Circles Resource Center. College of Education, Seattle University. Katerine L. Schlick Noe, Ph. D.

Instructional Purposes:

- Provide a structure for students to engage in critical thinking and reflection as they read
- Provide the opportunity for students to extend their understanding and meaning of text
- Provide the opportunity for students to become self-regulated and independent when reading and discussing complex text

Teacher Plans Structures and Processes:

- assigning students to particular groups
- determining the book/text for each group
- identifying a time within independent reading when students read their group's assigned Hybrid Lit Circle text
- planning a schedule within independent reading when Hybrid Lit Circle groups meet with the teacher and when groups meet as peers to discuss the text
- identifying how groups will know their daily reading responsibilities (i.e. a weekly menu, posted on the board, etc.)

Instructional Pre-Planning:

- Teacher reads text to identify grade level standard(s) and learning target.
- Teacher determines the strategy(ies) and reading behavior(s) to support the standard.
- Teacher creates guiding question(s) for the reading and discussion.

Hybrid Lit Circle Process:

- On first meeting, teacher explains the process of participating in Hybrid Lit Circles.
- Teacher meets with each group to model and provide guided practice reading the assigned Hybrid Lit text independently:
 - 'unpacking' the guiding questions including the targeted standard,
 - annotating the text in response to the guiding question, and
 - circling unfamiliar and interesting words.
- Students read and annotate the text independently while the teacher works with another group and/or confers with individual students.
- The group reconvenes to discuss the guiding question and noted vocabulary words in the text. (Every other day, the group meets with the teacher. On the alternate days, the group meets without the teacher and is facilitated by a student. Student facilitators rotate daily to include all members of the group.)