

Literature Circle Open-Ended Discussion Prompts

Vocabulary	<p>Think about the interesting words and vocabulary words in your book. As you read, find 3 words that you want to look up. These words need to be words that you do not know the meaning of, or a word that you want to know more about. You might find that you know the meaning of every word, so you might find a word that you think made the sentence very interesting, or you might find a word that you do not hear very often. It might be a famous person from history that you want to know more about.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First, find the 3 words and write the sentence from the book with that word in it. • Next, look up the meaning of those words in the dictionary. • For your blog post, write the words, sentence, and the definition. This is a lot of typing, so give yourself plenty of time. Make sure you choose 3 words that are different than the other members of your group.
Character	<p>Which character in the book is the most like you? Tell us who that character is, and why they are similar to you. Give examples from the story to help explain why you think that character is similar to you.</p> <p>Think about these things:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Their personality • Their hobby • How they feel about different things • Their family
Character, Events, end of story	<p>After reading the whole book, tell us if you would want to be a character in this story, or not. Make sure you describe at least 3 events from the story and tell us why those events would either make you want to, or not want to be part of this story. Your answer should be 1-2 paragraphs and have correct spelling, details, and be interesting to read. Take your time!</p> <p>Here are some things to write about to help explain your thinking:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Were the characters people you would want to be around? • Were the events in the story events that you would want to be involved in? • Was it a time period that you would like to live in?
Character	<p>Describe one of the characters in your book. You could write about their age, looks, personality, strengths, weaknesses. Is this character a hero or a villain, or something in between? Try to make a connection between this character and yourself or your own life. If you could ask this character one question, what would it be?</p>
Character, character traits	<p>While reading, pick a main character from your book. For the first paragraph of your response, describe what this character is like. Below are some questions that may help lead your paragraph (please don't simply answer all these questions, just use them to help guide your paragraph if you need some talking points).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -What do they look like? -Do they have friends? -Do they have hobbies? -Is there anything they are really good at? -Do they dislike anything? -Is there anything they really like? <p>For your second paragraph (possible fourth paragraph if you decide to do more than two traits), think of two to three character traits. For each trait, start a new paragraph and use an example</p>

	<p>from the book to prove the trait (if you can find multiple examples to prove a trait, even better). Here are some traits you <i>may</i> want to use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Patient -Brave/Scared -Intelligent -Generous/Selfish -Mature/Immature -Clumsy -Lazy -Greedy/Giving -Adventurous
Character	<p>Choose a main character and pretend you are making a report card for them, but instead of giving them grades for reading, writing and math, you will choose different character traits to score. For example, if you know your character is really imaginative they would get an A+ in Creativity. Or if you know your character is really impatient they would get an F in patience.</p> <p>When you reply to this post, please tell us the character you've chosen and share at least one trait for which they received an A and one trait for which they received an F. You must provide support for your grade with examples from the story. Remember, you've got to prove it, prove it! You've got to prove it, prove it!</p> <p>Here are some suggested traits, but you can come up with your own as well. Sense of humor, bravery, curiosity, intelligence, creativity, trust, kindness, daring, enthusiasm, fair, hard working, helpful, honesty, loyal, calm, careful, lucky, organized, optimistic, perseverant, quick-tempered, reliable, risk-taker, sneaky, skillful, stingy, tough...It may help to think of a word you would use to describe your character and a word that definitely would NOT describe your character.</p> <p>I'm expecting you will write several sentences about each character trait. Be sure to proofread and edit for spelling, punctuation and capital letters.</p>
Setting/Mood	<p>Writers often use the setting to create a mood or evoke a feeling in a book or scene. For your first paragraph, pick a scene and describe how the author used setting to create a mood or feeling. See the questions below to help you get started.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Think about the time of day (nighttime, early morning, afternoon) ● Think about the weather or temperature (cold, cloudy day compared to a warm, sunny day) ● Think about the conditions (a dusty house compared to a spotless house) ● Think about an item in the setting (a flying bat, old statue, garden of beautiful flowers) ● Think about the type of people in the scene (a mass or people, one person distracting everyone, a group of close friends)
Setting, prediction	<p>What is the setting of your story and how does it compare to the setting in which you live? What is similar? What is different? Do you think the setting will change drastically throughout your book? What will be the different settings? Make a prediction.</p>
Problem	<p>This week we'll focus on the main problem in the story. What is the main problem in the story? How is the main character trying to solve the problem? What do you predict the solution will be? If you were the main character, how would you solve the problem? What would you say? What would you do? What plan would you devise?</p>

Review, end of story	Write a short review of your book. Be sure to include the plot, setting, characters, and problem. If you liked it, your review should convince others to read this book. If you did not like your book, the review should explain why. At the end of the review, answer this question. If the author of your book was going to write a sequel, what do you think the plot would be?
Review, end of story	Pretend you are a book reviewer working for the Oregonian. They've asked you to write a review of the book for their readers. What is your opinion of the book and characters? What type of person/reader would enjoy reading this book? What is something the author could have done differently in the book? Be sure to support your opinions with proof from the story.
Problem	All books have a main problem in the story. What is the problem your main character is facing? Write a diary entry from the perspective of the main character. Include a description of the problem, how you are feeling about it and a possible solution to the problem. Really try to use what you know about the character and what would make sense in the story to create a solution.
Leads, character	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We've been learning about great leads in our writer's workshop. What kind of lead did the author use to begin this book, and what makes it effective? 2. By now you should have identified the main character in your book. What character traits does he/she have that make him/her interesting and likeable? <p>Remember to use complete sentences with appropriate capitalization, punctuation and spelling.</p>
Conflict	<p>After this week's reading, you should have some hint about the main conflict (or at least one of the conflicts) of the story. Depending upon your book, the conflict could be crystal clear, or you may have to rely on inference. How is the author creating <i>tension</i> as the story unfolds? You might want to think about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the setting • relationships between characters • foreshadowing/flashbacks • descriptive language
	<p>Writers often use the setting to create a mood or evoke a feeling in a book or scene. For your first paragraph, pick a scene from your book and describe how the author used setting to create a mood or feeling.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Think about the time of day (nighttime, early morning, afternoon) • Think about the weather or temperature (cold, cloudy day compared to a warm, sunny day) • Think about the conditions (a dusty house compared to a spotless house) • Think about an item in the setting (a flying bat, old statue, garden of beautiful flowers) • Think about the type of people in the scene (a mass or people, one person distracting everyone, a group of close friends)
Word choice	Find a brilliant example of word choice in this week's text! Write the entire sentence and explain why you chose it.
Figurative language	<p>This week, be on the lookout for examples of figurative language. For example: from <i>Esperanza Rising: the song of the locomotive</i>. Write the complete sentence and explain why you think it is effective. Here are the types of figurative language we have studied in class:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • metaphor – a thing representing another thing (e.g., <i>a blanket of snow</i>) • simile – comparing two things using the linking words <i>like</i> or <i>as</i> (e.g., <i>as sweet as sugar</i>) • alliteration – repetition of a sound or letter (e.g., <i>the slimy, slithering snake</i>)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • hyperbole – exaggeration (e.g., <i>he snored so loud he raised the roof</i>) • personification – giving human characteristics to inanimate objects (e.g., <i>the wind whispered her name</i>) • onomatopoeia – words that represent noises (e.g., <i>whoosh, buzz, splat</i>)
Character	Write a paragraph about ways that the main character (or another character in your book) has grown or changed. What lessons have they learned? How has that made them different?
Sentence Fluency	<p>We've been learning a lot about sentence fluency this year. You've noticed that sometimes writers use a variety of sentences to engage the reader and make their writing more interesting. Examples of sentence fluency include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • short, arresting sentences • long, rambling phrases • rhythmic, flowing sentences • internal dialogue of a character (sentences that reveal what a character is thinking) • questions <p>Look for examples of sentence fluency in your reading this week and write about what you find.</p>
Theme	What is(are) the theme(s) of the book? We've learned that the theme is the broad concept of what the book is really about. What lesson is the author trying to teach? For example, in the book we are reading in class, the themes are: don't judge someone based on what they look like, and have the courage to be true to your own values even if it means standing up to the "popular" crowd at school. You can check out the chart in our room for other ideas.
Main events, setting	Draw a map on the paper I gave you that shows where the main parts of the story took place. A great reader will use his/her imagination as they read to "make a movie in their mind." Like the example shown in class, use your mental imagery to draw a map of the main events.
Setting, mood	<p>Writers often use the setting to create a mood or evoke a feeling in a book or scene. For your first paragraph, pick a scene and describe how the author used setting to create a mood or feeling. See the questions below to help you get started.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Think about the time of day (nighttime, early morning, afternoon) • Think about the weather or temperature (cold, cloudy day compared to a warm, sunny day) • Think about the conditions (a dusty house compared to a spotless house) • Think about an item in the setting (a flying bat, old statue, garden of beautiful flowers) • Think about the type of people in the scene (a mass or people, one person distracting everyone, a group of close friends)
Problem	You're about halfway through your book, and by now you should have an idea as to what the main problem of the book is. The main problem may not be apparent at the very start, but soon after. For your second paragraph, describe what the main problem of the book is. Then make a prediction as to what you believe will happen. Will they (he/she) solve the problem, if so how? If not, why do you think this?
Character, disability	All the books we are reading for our reading groups have one thing in common; they all have a character with a disability. A disability can be a variety of things, such as cerebral palsy (Melody), blindness, autism, mutism, or paraplegia. Describe in detail the disability. If need be, do some research on the internet to find out more about the character's disability (we researched

cerebral palsy on the internet to learn more about Melody’s disability). Here are some things you MAY want to discuss:

- What everyday activities does this character struggle with?
- Are there things this character can not do by themselves?
- What are some things/devices/people the character uses to help them with their disability (think about Melody’s Medi-Talker)?

Character, disability

Think about instances in the book where your character with a disability has had interactions with other characters, or a group of characters. Describe in detail how other characters treat this person. Here are some things you MAY want to discuss:

- Are people overly nice to this character because of the disability?
- Do people make fun of this character?
- Do people treat this character like a normal person?
- Are there characters in your book who befriend this character?

Conclusion, end of story

What is your honest review of the book? Please defend your opinion with reasons. Some things you may want to talk about:

-Did the author keep you engaged? If so, how did they do it? If not, why not?

-Did you care about the characters? Why or why not?

-Were you interested in finding out how the main problem was solved? Why or why not?

-Did you have a connection with the book?

Reflection

If you could change one thing about this book, what would it be and why? First explain the part in detail. Then describe why you would want to change the part. Finally, show what you would do differently.

If you enjoyed the book, and don’t want to change anything, which part of the book would you like to expand? Maybe you want to know more about a relationship between two characters, or maybe you want to know more about a scene. Make sure you include why you wanted to know more.

Reflection

Who would you recommend the book to? Maybe it’s a real person, or a type of reader. Please state why you recommend it, and why you think that reader would like it.

Character, traits

As you read, think about the main character in your book. There are two different kinds of Character Traits: Internal and External

Below are different examples of internal and external traits.

Internal	External
<i>Active</i>	<i>Short</i>
<i>Fearless</i>	<i>Well-Dressed</i>
<i>Hopeful</i>	<i>Poor</i>
<i>Shy</i>	<i>African-American</i>
<i>Caring</i>	<i>Young</i>
<i>Curious</i>	<i>Blonde</i>

In your first paragraph, discuss your characters external traits. The External Traits include: A person’s appearance/physical features

- What a person looks like
- What a person is good at
- Where a person lives and with whom
- Who a person is in life

In your second paragraph, discuss your main characters' internal traits. The Internal Traits include: Words that describe who a person is inside.

- A person's fears
- A person's motivations
- A person's frustrations
- A person's feelings