

Literature Circle Syllabus:

Expectations: You will complete all of the following activities over the final 6 weeks of school:

1. **Read two novels** over the course of 6 weeks.
2. Complete a **variety of literacy activities that will reinforce** what we have learned this year.
3. **Journal** 1-2 times during each reading period.
4. **Research 3 topics** found in each of your novels.
5. Participate in a **variety collaborative discussions** with your peers.

1. Novel Reading:

Novel Choices: Below you will find a list of possible novel choices. **Your first novel MUST come from this list. Your second novel can possibly come from somewhere else, but this possibility will need to be discussed with your teacher.**

1. *Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key* by Jack Gantos
2. *Yolanda's Genius* by Carol Fenner
3. *Freak the Mighty* by Rodman Philbrick
4. *Dear Mr. Henshaw* by Beverley Cleary
5. *Good Night, Mr. Tom* by Michelle Magorian
6. *Summer of the Monkeys* by Wilson Rawls
7. *Crash* by Jerry Spinelli
8. *My name is Brain Brian* by Jeanne Betancourt
9. *Ruby Holler* by Sharon Creech
10. *The Cay* by Theodore Taylor
11. *Hatchet* by Gary Paulsen
12. *Maniac Magee* by Jerry Spinelli
13. *A Long Way From Chicago* by Richard Peck

Reading Time: You will have **6-7 class periods** to complete each novel.

2. Literacy Activities:

Types of Activities: Your teacher has selected specific activities geared towards **reinforcing concepts that you will need to be successful in seventh grade.**

3. Journal Writing:

Journals: Throughout your reading time, there will be short breaks where you will be expected to write on a variety of topics. While there is **no exact amount of sentences/paragraphs, you will be expected to write for the ENTIRE time.**

4. Research

Process: **One day a week, for one period at a time,** you will be provided with computer lab time. Your goal will be to locate a **credible (believable) and useful article** to use in the second half of class that day.

Topics: You will **determine a subject, person, controversial topic, etc. that is both mentioned somewhere in your novel and of interest to you.** You will work to find an **essay, article, report etc. that tells you more about it.**

5. Collaborative Discussion

Types: You will need to be prepared to **discuss your novel with a variety of people.** Group sizes will range from partners to 4-5 people. Furthermore, sometimes you will be speaking with people reading the same novel as you, and other times it will be people who are not reading the same novel as you. No matter what the group dynamic may be, the expectations mentioned below must be followed.

***Expectations:* You will speak thoughtfully and respectfully to anyone you discuss with. You will listen carefully and respectfully to anyone you discuss with.**