

Literature Circle - Notebook Entry Prompts

You are to select five notebook entries to do independently. Please write the topic number and date at the top of each entry. Minimum length for each entry to receive full credit is one page - without skipping lines. To get full credit for an entry, you may choose one topic and write for one page. Or you may choose two topics and write a half-page for each one. You may only use a category once. In other words, once you've done an entry from "Characters," you can't use a topic from that category again. All art-type entries that are labeled ** must be done in detail and colored.

Characters

1. What problems do the characters have, and how do they solve them?
2. Which characters would make good next door neighbors? Which ones wouldn't? Why?
3. What would the main character be likely to do if s/he visited our classroom?
4. Choose one character. Rewrite a section of the story from this character's point of view.
5. Pretend you want to make a movie for this book. Explain what actors you would choose to play the parts and why you would choose them.
6. Imagine Oprah was going to interview one of the characters. What questions would/should she ask and how would the character respond to each one?
7. Choose an interesting character from your book. Think of what he or she likes; then think of a gift you would like to give him/her. Write a description of the present you would give him/her and why you think the character would like it.
8. If you could only save one character from the book in the event of a disaster, which one would it be and why?
9. Which character in the book would you choose for a friend? Why?
10. Which character do you most like? How would the book be different if the character weren't present?
11. What was your first impression of the main character? How have your first impressions grown or changed as you've read the novel? (This can not be done until you are at least more than half way through the novel).
12. Write a diary entry of a **minor** character's view of a major event. Write this in the form of a diary that the minor character has written.
13. Make a comparison of two of the most opposite characters in the novel and describe an interaction between these two characters. What causes conflict between them?
14. Martin Luther King wrote, "I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: '...that all men are created equal.'" What would the main character in your novel dream for? Write this wish as MLK did, "I have a dream that..." Then explain why your character has this dream for the future.
15. Write a letter to "Dear Abby" (advice columnist) from a character in your novel asking Abby for advice. Then write a letter from "Dear Abby" offering advice for the character.
16. Pretend you are one of the characters in the book. Write a diary about the happenings in your life for two days.
17. Describe your least favorite character and explain why.
18. What are two emotions the main character has felt? What made the main character feel that way?
19. Imagine that one of the main characters was attending your school. Make a list of the classes he or she would be taking. Tell what grade you think the character would get in each class, and why he or she would get each grade.

Setting

20. Describe the setting (time and place) for your book. Could the story take place in a different setting? Why or why not?
21. Tell in your own words how the setting of the story made it more interesting.
22. What changes would have to be made if the book occurred 200 years ago?
23. If part of your story happened in a foreign land, compare/contrast that land to the United States.
24. If your story occurred long ago, compare that time with today. If it was a modern story, compare it with a long time ago and tell what would be different.

Connections

25. Did this section remind you of anything that has happened to you? What? Why? Did this section give you any new ideas about yourself? Why?
26. Tell about a time something similar to what happened in the story happened to you or to someone you know.
27. Describe ways in which the character is like you. How is the character different?
28. Compare this book with the last book you read.
29. Write a poem or song or rap about something in the book. It must be a least twelve lines long.
30. Write a short story or another chapter for the book using the same characters.
31. Imagine that you are the author of the book. Explain why you chose to write this book, who you wanted to read it, and what inspired you.
32. Find a news or magazine article either online or in print that relates to an issue in your book. Summarize the article and tell how it connects to your novel.
33. Describe the author's style of writing and compare it to the style of a different author whose books you've read.

34. Select a quote from the book - something a character or the narrator said that had an impact on you. Explain why you connected to that quote.
35. What lesson did you learn (are you learning) from the story?
36. If you were a character in this book, who would you be? Why?
37. What emotions do you feel about your reading? Describe what is going on in the reading that makes you feel that way.
38. What event could have happened in real life? What would be similar in real life? What would be different in real life?

Conflict

39. If you were in a problem situation like one in the book, how would you have acted? Be sure to tell what the situation is.
40. Identify one problem in the book and give an alternate solution that was not given by the author.
41. Describe the major conflict and predict how you think the problem will be solved and why.
42. List at least three problems the characters faced. Which was the most life changing? Explain.

Evaluation

43. Write a letter to a friend recommending this book or advising against reading it.
44. Did you like the way the story ended? Why or why not?
45. What did you think was the most interesting part of the book? Why?
46. Describe what was either believable or unbelievable about your reading and defend your opinion.
47. Imagine that your book has been nominated for a national book award. Explain why you think it should or should receive an award.

Visualizing

48. List the places in the book that are important. Then make up a map including these places as you imagine they may look. It may be a city map or a country map or any other kind of map.**
49. Pick one of the main characters. Think of a shape that fits that person's traits. Draw the shape. Then inside the shape, explain how the character is like the shape.**
50. Prepare a book jacket that illustrates the kind of book as well as the story.**
51. Divide your paper in four squares. Design and draw four outfits with clothing for the characters**.
52. Most well-rounded characters have two sides to them. Draw a mandala with symbols that represent the good and not-so-good sides of one of the story characters.**
53. Create a values poster or collage advertisement. Choose quotes (2 or more) from the book that express what the society values. Then create a collage or poster (using artwork, magazine pictures, electronic media, etc.) that can be scanned or digitally photographed for posting. This collage or poster should combine with the quotes to clearly sell or promote these values to people today.**
54. Create a map that shows the main character's journey of change or discovery.**
55. Create a "Wanted" poster for the antagonist in the story. Draw the character's picture. Write a physical description of the character, and describe what trouble he/she has caused.**
56. Divide your paper into four squares. Imagine that each square is a page in your character's scrapbook. Draw a picture in each square to show four important objects that the character would want to save and remember. Write one or two sentences for each object explaining its importance.**

Plot

57. Pick an event in the story and decide what the five W's (who, what, when, where, why) and the H (how) would be for that event. Then write a newspaper article including these facts.
58. Write a different ending to a chapter in the book. Tell why you changed it. What part would you change in the story, and why?
59. Make an eight section comic strip with captions showing the main events of a part of the story.**
60. The climax of any book or story is the usually the most interesting part. Describe the most exciting point in the book and explain why it's the climax.
61. Summarize the most exciting part of the book and explain why it was so exciting.
62. Create a plot outline of the book.
63. If you could continue the story, what events would you include? Why?

Questioning

64. If the author were here, what ten questions would you ask him or her? Write the questions, and then write a response for each one the way you *think* the author might answer.
65. If you could talk to one of the characters in the story, what ten questions would you want to ask him or her? Write the questions, and then write a response for each one the way you think the character might answer.