

1/9/08

Dear Literature Circle Member,

This year, you will write letters to your literature circle group about your reading. These letters will help you think about your reading and make your discussion easier. When you write your letters in your reading composition book, do your best work and share your best thinking. For example, you might:

- tell what you like or dislike about the book and why.
- tell about parts of your book that puzzled you or made you ask questions.
- tell what you noticed about the characters, such as what made them act as they did or how they changed.
- write about something in the book that surprised you or that you found interesting.
- write your predictions and about whether your predictions were right.
- ask for help in figuring out the meaning of your book.
- tell about the connections that you made while reading the book. Tell how it reminds you of yourself, of people you know, or of something that happened in your life. It might remind you of other books, especially the characters, the events, or the setting.
- write about the author's style and how it makes you feel.
- write about the vocabulary and language the author used and why you think the author wrote this way.
- write about the author's skill, what worked or what didn't work.

Write a letter to your group mates once a week. You should be prepared with your letter for Thursday's Literature Circle meeting. Use a letter form. Think of the letters you wrote to Ms. Byrne. It is important that your letters are neat and easy to read so your group-mates can understand what you are trying to say. Please read through your letter to make sure that it includes your best spelling and punctuation.

For Monday discussions you need to think about the same kinds of things, but you do not need to write a letter. You should come to your meeting prepared with at least 5 ideas to share. You should write these ideas down in your reading composition book. Your notes in your composition book should include the page number that you are talking about. You may want to mark important parts that you want to talk about with post-it notes.

Have fun!

Love,

Ms. Byrne