Literature Circle Guidelines and Expectations

Reading and discussing what you read is an exciting part of experiencing a story (both fiction, and non-fiction). The books we read shape who we are as individuals, and provide a way to gain world experience without having lived through the time period, place or event directly.

Before Reading:

* Complete 3 (or more) of the pre-reading strategies to prepare yourself for reading the book. This will help with understanding the story, as well as help you paint an accurate mental picture of the setting, characters or scenes.

During Reading:

* Track important aspects of what you read with Sticky Notes in your novel.
* When you come across parts that raise Big Questions, write them down on the sticky note at that part. You will focus on the 4 boxes of your literature circle discussion sheets (Events, Connections, Questions, Images, New Vocabulary, Author Purpose and Predictions)
* If there is something else you want to discuss that isn’t on your sheet, write it down on the back.

After Reading:

* Re-write these notes on your coloured meeting cards in the 4 boxes provided.

For the Meeting:

* Be sure you have read ALL of the pages BEFORE your meeting! This is vital to having great discussions! Otherwise, your group will be held back from discussing parts of the book so that they don’t spoil anything for you!
* Bring your book and discussion pages to the meeting
* Fill out the four boxes BEFORE the meeting
* Listen carefully to your group members during discussion. Wait a fair turn, so that everyone has a chance to share. (try not to overshare)
* Share honestly, have something that you would like to discuss at the meeting with respect to that part of your book.
* Everyone will make a prediction for the book (either a big or small prediction, and explain what has made you think that would happen using evidence from the book)

After the meeting:

* Fill in anything that may have been missing, or maybe you’ve changed your mind about something.
* Check your next meeting day, and plan when you are going to read so that you will be done the next section by your meeting date.