

## Literature Circles Roles

**Discussion Director/Illuminator:** Your role demands that you identify the important aspects of your assigned book, and develop questions your group will want to discuss. Focus on the major themes or "big" ideas in the book and your reaction to those ideas. What interests you will most likely interest those in your group. You are also responsible for facilitating your group's discussion. Include quotations and passages that are memorable, interesting, puzzling, funny, or important.

**Questions:** What were you thinking about as you read?  
What do you think this passage was about?  
What would you ask the writer if you could?  
What do you think will happen next?  
What was the most important change in this section?

**Illustrator:** Your role is to draw what you read. This might mean drawing a scene as a cartoon-like sequence, or an important scene so readers can better understand the action. You can draw maps or organizational trees to show how one person, place, or event relates to the others. Explain how your drawing relates to the text. Label your drawings so we know who the characters are.

**Questions:** Ask the group, "What does this picture mean?"  
Why did you choose this scene to illustrate?  
How does the drawing relate to the story?  
Who and/or what is in the drawing?  
What did drawing it help you see?  
What are you trying to accomplish in this drawing?

**Connector:** Your job is to connect what you are reading to events in your own life, news events, political events, popular trends, or books that you have already read. The connections should be meaningful to you and those in your group.

**Questions:** What connections can you make to your own life?  
What/who else could you compare this story to?  
What other book might you compare to this one?  
What other characters or authors come to mind?  
What is the most interesting or important connection?

**Word Watcher:** While reading, you watch for words worth knowing. These words might be interesting, new, important, or used in unusual ways. It is important to indicate the specific location of the words so the group can discuss these words in context.

**Questions:** Which words are used frequently?  
Which words are used in unusual ways?  
What words seem to have special meanings?  
What new words did you find in this book?  
What does the word mean?

**Summarizer:** Prepare a brief summary of the day's reading. Use the questions to help you decide what to include. In some cases, you might ask yourself what details, characters, or events are important.

**Questions:** What are the most important events in this section?  
What makes them so important?  
How do these events affect the plot or characters?  
What changes did you notice when you read?  
What might be a good essay topic for this section?