

TBLM OLE.4#2: Variations for Reading Circles

Selecting the Text

- All students in the class read the same text.
- Each group reads a different text on the same theme. Texts can be of varied reading levels and related to the unit theme or concept.
- Each member of the group reads a different text of the same genre. Texts can be of various reading levels and related to the unit theme or concept.

Reading the Text Selection

- Students read the whole text selection before meeting in the Reading Circles.
- Students read an agreed-upon section of the text before meeting in the Reading Circles.
- Students read the text during the Reading Circle meeting, usually identifying some sections to be read independently the day before the next meeting.

Discussing the Text in Reading Circles

- At the beginning of each Reading Circle discussion, students record on a group chart (see BLM OLE.4#3: Reading Circles Discussion Notes) the page numbers of the text selection they are reading, and write a two- or three-sentence summary of what they have read to date.
- Assign a question for discussion at each Reading Circle, or construct questions specific to each title, as in a traditional novel study. The discussion can be videotaped or recorded by the group's recorder and edited by the group (OLE.2: Daily Edit).
- Give students a list of guiding questions to work through in sequence or according to the group's preference. The questions can be recorded by the group's recorder and edited by the group (OLE.2: Daily Edit).

Responding in Journals

- Assign questions for written response.
- Students write personal reactions to their reading, predict what will happen next, or comment on an issue raised in the text.
- Vary the responses at each session (e.g., vocabulary, setting, plot, character).

Comparing and Contrasting Texts

- Form new Reading Circles where each member of the group reads and shares a different text. This allows for sophisticated compare and contrast experiences, as well as critical thinking activities.

Posting a Book Review on the Internet

- See BLM OLE.4#1: Reading Circle Learning Centre.