

Writing Letters: Criteria for Literature Circle Letters.

1. **Summarize the main idea in the story.** (2 or 3 sentences maximum.) Don't spill the beans!
2. **Discuss the relationship between 2 of the main characters.** (Relationship means how two characters interact with each other – what is their friendship like?) Tell why you think their relationship is like that. Get a quote or two from the book to back up your beliefs.
3. **Make connections with a character or some part of the plot.** Make connections to self, text and/or world with an event or characters.
4. **Ask 3 questions – one each of the following types of question:**
 - a. ***On the line*** – The answer is right there in the text. The words used in the question and the words used for the answer can usually be found in the same sentence.
 - i. Who did?
 - ii. How many?
 - iii. When did?
 - iv. What are?
 - v. Define_____.
 - vi. What does_____mean?
 - vii. What happened before_____?
 - viii. What happened after_____?
 - ix. How many times did_____?
 - x. Then what happened?
 - b. ***Between the lines*** – The answer is in the text. The words used in the question and the words found in the answer are NOT found in the same sentence. They come from different parts of the text.
 - i. Explain what you mean by_____.
 - ii. Why did_____happen?
 - iii. What kind of person was_____?
 - iv. What would happen if_____?
 - v. What makes you think that_____?
 - vi. How is_____ like_____?
 - vii. How many causes of_____?
 - viii. What events led to_____?
 - c. ***Outside or beyond the lines.*** – In your head and on your own. The text got you thinking, but the answer is in your head. So think about it and use what you already know to answer the question. The answer is usually different for each person.
 - i. What were your reactions to_____?
 - ii. In your opinion_____?
 - iii. How do you feel about_____? Evaluate_____?
 - iv. I agree (disagree) with_____ because_____?
 - v. How might the author_____?
 - vi. How would you re-write the ending?