

AFTER READING

(Book Club Meeting Ideas)

Note to Moms: Feel free to agree with or challenge ideas, describe own experiences or opinions, offer suggestions, make recommendations, provide background information

WARM-UP

- 1) Chart ground rules for a successful conversation. Discuss – “What does a good book talk...”
 - a. Look like? Sound like?
 - b. Not look like? Not sound like?
 - c. Look for examples today in conversation. Consider writing notes, so you can share later
- 2) Draw or write about an image that represents the book in your eyes. Be prepared to share.

DIVE IN!

- 3) Chart Title and Genre(s) + how you know
- 4) Share personal rating of book (1 – 10) + explain why
- 5) Share 1-2 sentence story synopsis: “Somebody Wanted But So”
- 6) Chart the Story Arc / Plot (conflict, rising action, climax, falling action, resolution)
- 7) Share useful vocabulary that helped you better understand the story
- 8) Discuss strategies everyone uses to help comprehend and stay focused on the story
 - a. Reading Strategies: Preview, Visualize, Predict, Infer, Connect, Ask, Comment, Summarize
 - b. Refocusing: Reread, Read Aloud, Think Aloud, Adjust Rate, Use Strategies
- 9) Reminder to go back into the text to support your point and to give examples
- 10) Share Point Of View author uses + how you know
- 11) Chart major characters and personality traits. Share personal connections and opinions
- 12) Share favorite scenes or “golden lines” by going back and reading the text + explaining why
- 13) What were you thinking during the story? Tell about experiences as a reader:
 - a. What you noticed about how the author wrote
 - b. What the themes might be
 - c. What surprised you
 - d. Wonderings
 - e. Connections (Text – Self, Text – Text, Text – World)
- 14) What do you want to know more about?
- 15) Issues with the book: What didn’t you like, or, what did you wish was different?
- 16) What did you learn? What do you think the themes of this story could be?
A good book is one that teaches you something you didn't realize about yourself or the world ☺

For Moms

TEACHING THOUGHTFUL RESPONSE

Thoughtful response to reading is learned behavior. The adult facilitator's role is to help children deepen response and extend their ability to share response. Some ideas to encourage:

- a. Everything you think or feel is part of your personal response to literature
- b. Sharing responses with others is a good way to learn and grow in your enjoyment of reading
- c. There are no right answers, when you are talking about your personal responses to literature. Everyone's point of view is valuable and contributes to the learning of others

TEACHING CHILDREN TO SUPPORT RESPONSE WITH EVIDENCE

To elaborate on responses and communicate meaning more clearly, remind children to support their comments with evidence from the text or from their own background knowledge. Some ideas to encourage:

- a. Provide details from specific pages
- b. Read passages out loud from the text
- c. Retell a part of the text for the purpose of providing evidence
- d. Use background knowledge or personal experience
- e. Explain "why" or "how"

FACILITATOR APPROACHES TO TEACHING RESPONSE

Here are some approaches you can personally take to teach thoughtful response:

- a. Model response and reaction
- b. Demonstrate and tell. (Show how to provide evidence or how to listen and summarize what others are saying)
- c. Facilitate effective response. (Ask questions like, *Can you take us to the passage that makes you think that?*)
- d. Reinforce good response techniques by providing specific praise. (*Sarah, that was a good challenge you raised.*)
- e. Take notes while observing a discussion

RESOURCES

The Mother-Daughter Book Club: How Ten Busy Mothers and Daughters Came Together to Talk, Laugh, and Learn Through Their Love of Reading, by Shireen Dodson (Revised, Harper, 2007).

Great Books for Girls: More Than 600 Books to Inspire Today's Girls and Tomorrow's Women, by Kathleen Odean (Ballantine, 2002).

The Kids' Book Club Book: Reading Ideas, Recipes, Activities, and Smart Tips for Organizing Terrific Kids' Book Clubs, by July Gelman and Vicki Levy Krupp (Tarcher, 2007; www.kidsbookclubbook.com)

Inspiration and inside scoops for girls about girl-celebrating books: www.readergirlz.com

Fountas, Irene C. and Gay Su Pinnell. *Guiding Readers and Writers: Teaching Comprehension, Genre, and Content Literacy*. Portsmouth: Heinemann Publishing, 2001.