

Lit Circle Jobs 2.0!

Job # 1 – Character Commandant – Your job is to think about the main character or characters featured in this section of the reading. What are they doing? What are they thinking or saying? How are they feeling? How are they interacting with the setting of the story? Are they facing any conflicts or problems? Have they reached any epiphanies or made any insights or realizations? Are they experiencing hardship or good fortune? What details about the character(s) does the author reveal?

Task: Generate five textual citations (page numbers) that contain noteworthy information about a main character or characters. Summarize the material in one to two paragraphs for each textual reference.

Job # 2 – Mood Maven – You are in charge of looking at the way the author uses language to affect meaning. How does the writer create mood and suggest tone based on the way he/she uses words, sentences, and paragraphs? Think about the writer’s individual word choice and vocabulary. Are words simple and easy-to-understand, or are they longer, richer, and more complicated? What do the author’s sentences look like? Are they short? Long? Are they filled with exposition or dialogue? Does the author quickly relay plot or spend a lot of time describing events and things?

Task: Choose five passages or sections from the reading that serve as a good illustration about the way the writer uses language to convey ideas and tell the story. In one to two paragraphs per example, try to “break down” what the writer appears to be doing. Don’t tell us what this section is about. Tell us how the author uses language to express the story’s ideas.

Job # 3 – Insightful Identifier – Your role is to discover and discern the deeper meanings, profound ideas, cool concepts, and central themes found in the assigned reading section. What ideas are worth remembering? What bits of dialogue or lines of description seemed more significant or revealing than others?

Task: Use quotation marks and parenthetical text references with page numbers () to cite five passages that contain ideas worthy of documentation. After each passage, explain in one to two paragraphs what makes this passage a “choice” selection.

Job # 4 – Symbol Sleuth – Your role is to identify five objects from the reading that are important to the text. Ideally they will have symbolic value (ex: a mockingbird representing the harmless and innocent characters from *To Kill A Mockingbird*). In the event this section of reading doesn't contain five true symbols, feel free to substitute other objects or items that are significant to the story.

Task: Find five symbolic or important objects from the reading. Provide an illustration, photo, or graphic of each object. Cite the page number each object appeared on. Then, in one solid paragraph (4-6 sentences) for each item, explain its symbolic value or significance to the story.

Job # 5 – Mind Muser – Your task after reading the assigned section is to imagine you have the ability to appear as a character in the world of the text. For example, you might be Kino's brother from *The Pearl*, charged with helping Kino make it to the city to sell his treasure. Or maybe you're Juliet's sister from *Romeo & Juliet*, providing her with solace and advice. The idea for this job is to allow yourself to get lost and absorbed in the world of your story and interact with its characters. You will appear as yourself, yet will be linked to a character(s) in a manner in which you see fit. You may also acquire new skills or abilities based on the events in the text.

Task: Write a creative vignette using present-action language, engaging description, and lively dialogue where you're experiencing the events of the reading alongside a character or characters. Flex your creative muscle and have fun. Your literary sketch should be at least 300 words.

Job # 6 – Reactionary Revealer – Your role is to serve as a critic, passing judgment on the chief events from the reading. What were some of the major plot twists? Do you agree with them? Did characters make good or poor decisions? Would you have acted in a similar fashion or made different choices? Regardless of your take, be sure to take a definitive stand in support of or in disagreement.

Task: Pick five major plot events or character decisions/thoughts and take a determined stand on them. The idea is to react to important events in the reading in a manner that might reveal key developments and help provoke discussion with people at your table or with the class as a whole. Give each event a title, cite the page number where it occurred, and provide your reaction in one to two paragraphs for each event.