

Discussion Director

Name: _____

Book Title: _____

Pages Read: _____

Discussion Director: This job is to develop a list of questions that your group might want to discuss about this part of the book. Don't worry about the details; your task is to help people talk over the big ideas in the reading and share their reactions. Usually the best discussion questions come from your own thoughts, feelings, and concerns as you read. You can list them below during or after your reading. You may also use some of the general questions below to develop topics to your group.

Possible Discussion Questions or Topics for Today:

1)

2)

3)

4)

5)

Tips:

- Discuss the characters: Are they realistic, symbolic, and historically-based?
- What motivates the characters or leads them to make the choices they do?
- Discuss parts of the story that are confusing.
- What are the historical events that happened at the same time as the story?
- Are there any repeating images, phrases or events? Why do you think they repeat?

Word Wizard

Name: _____

Book Title: _____

Pages Read: _____

Word Wizard: The words a writer chooses are an important ingredient in the author's craft. Your job is to be on the lookout for a few words that have special meaning.

- Jot down **puzzling or unfamiliar words** while you are reading. Later, look up the definitions in either a dictionary or some other source.
- You may also run across **words that stand out** somehow in the reading—**words that are repeated a lot, used in an unusual way, or are crucial to the meaning of the text**. Mark these special words, too, and be ready to share your ideas on their usage to the group.

Note: When discussing vocabulary, you should always refer back to the text in order to examine the word in context.

Word	Page # and Paragraph	Definition	Reason/Plan for discussion

Summarizer

Name: _____

Book Title: _____

Pages Read: _____

Summarizer: Your job is to prepare a brief summary of today's reading. You can cover the key points, main highlights, and general idea of today's reading assignment.

Summary:

Key Points:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Connections: Did the pages you read today remind you of anything? Explain.

Connector

Name: _____

Book Title: _____

Pages Read: _____

Connector: Your job is to find connections between the book and you, and between the book and the wider world. Consider the list below when you make your connections.

- Your own past experiences
- Happenings at school or in the community
- Stories in the news
- Similar events at other times and places
- Other people or problems that you are reminded of
- Between this book and other writings on the same topic or by the same author

Some connections I made between this reading and my own experiences, the wider world, and other texts or authors:

Myself and my experiences	
The wider world	
Other texts and authors	

Illustrator

Name: _____

Book Title: _____

Pages Read: _____

Illustrator: Good readers make pictures in their minds as they read. This is a chance to share some of your own images and visions. Draw some kind of picture-related to the reading you have just done. It can be a sketch, cartoon, diagram, flowchart, or stick-figure scene. You can draw a picture of something that happened in your book, or something that the reading reminded you of, or a picture that conveys any idea or feeling you got from the reading. Any kind of drawing or graphic is okay—you can even label things with words if that helps.

Book Club: Whenever it fits in the conversation, show your drawing to your group. You don't have to explain it immediately. You can let people speculate on what your picture means, so they can connect your drawing to their own ideas about the reading. After everyone has had a say, you can always have the last word: tell them what your picture means, refer to the parts in the text that you used, and /or convey what it represents to you.

Travel Tracer

Name: _____

Book Title: _____

Pages Read: _____

Travel Tracer: When you are reading a book in which characters move around often and the scene changes frequently, it is important for everyone in your group to know where things are happening and how the setting may have changed. That's your job: carefully track where the action takes place during the reading. Describe each setting in detail, either in words or with an action map or diagram. Always give the page location where the scene is described.

Describe or sketch the setting

Where today's action begins:	Page where it is described:
Where key events happen:	Page where it is described:
Where today's events end:	Page where it is described:

Literary Luminary

Name: _____

Book Title: _____

Pages Read: _____

Literary Luminary: Your job is to locate a few special sections or quotations in the text for your group to talk over. The idea is to help you and others go back to some especially interesting, powerful, funny, puzzling, or important sections of the reading and think about them more carefully. As you decide which passages or paragraphs are worth going back to, make a note why you picked each one and consider some plans for how they should be shared. Remember, the purpose is to suggest material for discussion.

Page Number and Paragraph	Reason for Picking	Plan for Discussion

Researcher

Name: _____

Book Title: _____

Pages Read: _____

Researcher: Your job is to dig up some background information on any relevant topic related to your book. This might include

- The geography, weather, culture, or history of the book's setting
- Pertinent information about the author, and other related works
- Information about the time period portrayed in the book
- Information on any topic or events represented in the book
- Information on any topics that may have influenced the author
- Pictures, objects, or materials that illustrate elements of the book
- The history and derivation of words or names used in the book
- Information about any characters that is based on a historical person

This is not a formal research report. The idea is to find some information or materials that helps you and others understand the book better. Investigate something that really interests you—something that struck you as puzzling or curious while you were reading.

Ways of gathering information:

- The introduction, preface, or "about the author" section of the book
- Library books and magazines
- Online computer search or encyclopedia
- Interviews with people who know the topic
- Other novels, nonfiction, or textbooks you've read

