

Literature Circles Rules

Your group will be reading one of the books in the “What is an American?” group. You will be working together to answer these Essential Questions:

- What does it mean to be an American?
- Can we identify similar elements or experiences in an “American’s” life?
- How does the author use the language to build the character?
- What does the story reveal about the time period?

You will be meeting once a week to discuss the novel and to work on the assignments. During this group time, you will have specific group roles. It is important that you read the book and do your job. If you do not keep up with the reading and/or do your job, the group may decide to “vote you off the island” much like the teams in Survivor.

Voting off procedure—

Before someone can be voted off, the group must:

- Inform their member that he/she is not keeping up with the work.
- Inform the teacher that there is a problem within the group.
- Put their reasons for the vote in writing and give to the teacher.
- Vote off or on.

Before the vote is taken, the group must have given the member until the next meeting to show that he/she is up-to-date with their assignments.

In some cases an individual may decide that he/she is the only one doing any work. If that is the case, that team member may “escape” from the team.

Escape procedure—

Before he/she can escape from the team, the member must:

- Inform the rest of the group that they are not keeping up with the work.
- Inform the teacher that there is a problem within the group.
- Put his/her reasons for the escape in writing and give to the teacher.
- Upon mutual agreement of teacher and team member, inform the team he/she is leaving the group.

If you are voted off the group or if you escape from the group, you will be given individual assignments. The remaining members of the group are still responsible for the original assignments. Any individual work for an assignment remains the property of the individual who produces the work and goes with him/her when leaving the group.