

Pre-seminar Survey Questions

1. Do you like to read? Yes or no?
2. When you do read, what kind of reading materials do you most enjoy ?
 - Magazines
 - Comics
 - Graphic novels
 - Poems
 - Short stories
 - Mysteries
 - Realistic fiction
 - Fantasy
 - Historical fiction
 - Other
3. On a scale of 1-10 how much do you enjoy literature circles?
4. On a scale of 1-10 how would you rank your reading skills? (1 being the lowest, 10 highest)
5. How important to you is each of the following benefits of literature circles?
 - Freedom to read the book at your own pace
 - Freedom to choose the book you want to read
 - Not having the teacher tell you what your book means
 - Time to meet with your friends
 - The fact that the teacher allows you to do projects for your test grade
 - The fact that your grade is dependent on the group's grade
6. On a scale of 1-10 rank how much each of the following things bother you about literature circles:
 - Not everyone reads the book
 - You feel you do more work than others in the group
 - It's too loud and noisy
 - You don't understand the book and no one else does either
 - It's hard to get the teacher's attention
 - You feel like you didn't learn anything
 - You would rather work by yourself
 - People are too serious about the work
 - People aren't serious enough about the work
 - You don't know what the teacher expects from you
7. Do you think group interaction helps you better understand and enjoy the books you read? Yes or no?
8. Do you feel that it is your responsibility to help other students around you understand what you all are reading?
9. Do you think literature circles have a positive, neutral or negative effect on how much you enjoy the book you choose? Positive, negative, or neutral?
10. What do you think would make literature circles better for all classes?
 - Open response

Do you think you have a really good understanding of how plots work?

What mostly do you think makes a book really good to read?

- The writer doesn't confuse me with big words and long sentences
- The story has a lot of exciting action
- The characters seem real and believable
- The characters seem a lot like me
- The story has a lot of really nice descriptions
- The story makes me feel like I am there.

Post-seminar Survey Questions

1. On a scale of 1-10 how much did you enjoy Louis Sachar's book Holes?
1-10
2. Is this the kind of book you would naturally pick up and read on your own?
3. What did you like most about the book?
(plot) The way the story fit together like a puzzle
(character) The way the characters seemed real
(style) The way the story sounded natural and simple
(setting) The way the story helped you see where it takes place
(theme) What the book was about
4. How much do you think our seminar discussion questions helped you better understand the book?
A whole lot, a lot, some, a little, none
5. How much do you think the seminars helped you see things about the book you didn't see before?
A whole lot, a lot, some, a little, none
6. How much do you think the book Holes helped you better understand how plot works?
A whole lot, a lot, some, a little, none
7. How much do you think you contributed in a meaningful way to the seminar discussions?
A whole lot, a lot, some, a little, none
8. How much do you think you learned from reading the book Holes?
A whole lot, a lot, some, a little, none
9. Overall, rate how helpful the seminars were to your understanding the book.
Extremely helpful, helpful, somewhat helpful, a little helpful, not helpful at all
10. Would you read other books if they were similar to Holes?
11. What did you like most about the seminars?
Open response