Literature circles are designed to provide small group discussion time about the novel as you are reading the novel.   One of the most important skills you will be practicing is effective question writing (see handout on question generation).

Instructions:

1.   The novel is "chunked" into three sections agreed upon by the members of your literature circle. Read each chunk as scheduled in advance of your literature circle meeting. For each literature circle meeting you will:
*   prepare your reader's journal notes for that chunk
*   date and sign the reader's journals you have prepared for each section of the novel
*   prepare **five** discussion questions for that chunk, written on index cards; be sure to sign and date each card.

At the end of the discussion time, you will place your colour-coded questions into your Reader's Journal and hand your journal in for marking. Your reader's journal should also contain any notes which arise from your class discussions, or group member's questions. Each group member will be evaluated on his or her own notes and questions, as well as the level of engagement during discussions.

2.   On the group discussion dates:

*   Take turns sharing the technical insights (observations about character, vocabulary, allusions, symbolism, themes, connections, imagery, etc.) you got from your reading and ask or answer any questions prompted by this discussion.
*   The discussion facilitator collects the five questions each person has written on their index cards. The facilitator should start by selecting questions that deal with the personal response to the text and then mix in some matter questions. Layered questions should come near the end of the discussion.
     A good discussion has the following characteristics:

     ➢   members ask additional questions of clarification; members extend or add to other people's insights
     ➢   facilitators recognize when discussion is slowing down and moves to a new question

3.   Evaluation:

I will circulate during the literature circle meetings and listen to your discussions. During your meetings I should observe the following:

     ➢   equal participation (taking turns, offering ideas)
     ➢   encouragement (encouraging others to share ideas, supportive comments)
     ➢   active listening (nodding, asking for clarification, taking down notes)
     ➢   open body language (eye contact, facing each other)
     ➢   on task discussion

ENG 4U   **Literature Circle Meeting Rubric**

	R	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
Communication /10		Participation in meeting demonstrates limited communication skills	Participation in meeting demonstrates some communication skills	Participation in meeting demonstrates good communication skills	Participation in meeting demonstrates excellent communication skills
Application /10		Discussion questions may be incomplete but still provide some opportunities for meaningful discussion	All five questions are complete and provide opportunities for meaningful discussion	All five discussion questions are complete and provide opportunities for deep discussion	All five discussion questions are complete and sophisticated and provide opportunities for deep discussion

Reader's Journals Rubric

	R	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
Knowledge /20		Notes are complete but lacking enough detail to demonstrate sufficient understanding	Notes are complete, plot events detailed Understanding of some elements of the text demonstrated	Notes are complete and detailed Understanding of most elements of the text demonstrated	Notes are thorough and detailed understanding of all elements of the text demonstrated
Thinking /20		some attempt to understand inference, some questioning, enough to show basic comprehension of text	some inferences identified, questioning shows ability to understand some complex ideas but connections may not be made or may be simple connections only	insights show strong questioning skills and is able to make some connections among and between ideas	insights show ability to make connections at the highest level and to understand deeply buried inferences - questioning shows probes that are complex and abstract