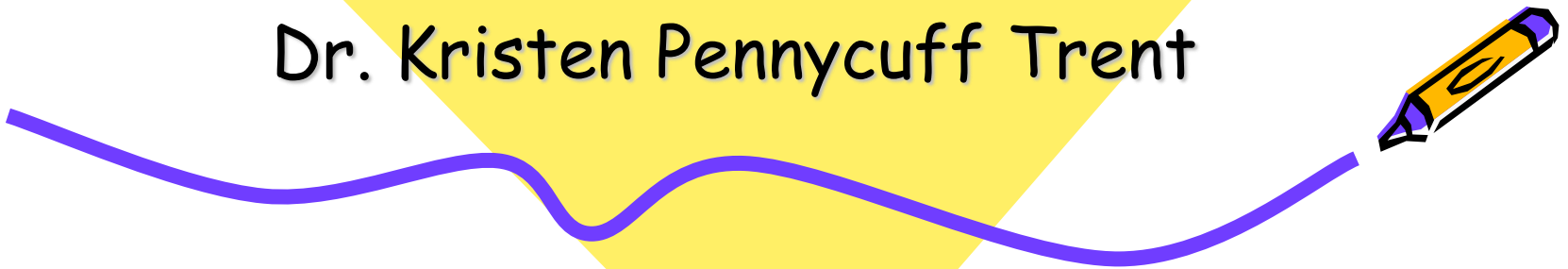
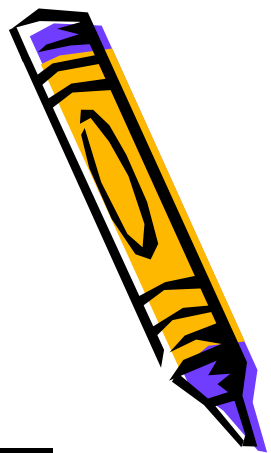


Non-Fiction Literature Circles

Dr. Jane Baker
Dr. Kristen Pennycuff Trent



Printing our own toys?



Annotation Notes: Read with a Pencil



- Underline major points using pen or pencil.
- Circle keywords and phrases that are confusing or unknown to you in either pink or orange.
- Use an **exclamation mark** for things that surprise you and briefly note what it was that caught your attention. **!**
- Use a question mark for things/questions that you are wondering about during the reading. Be sure to write your question. Use your **yellow** marker. **?**



What are literature circles?

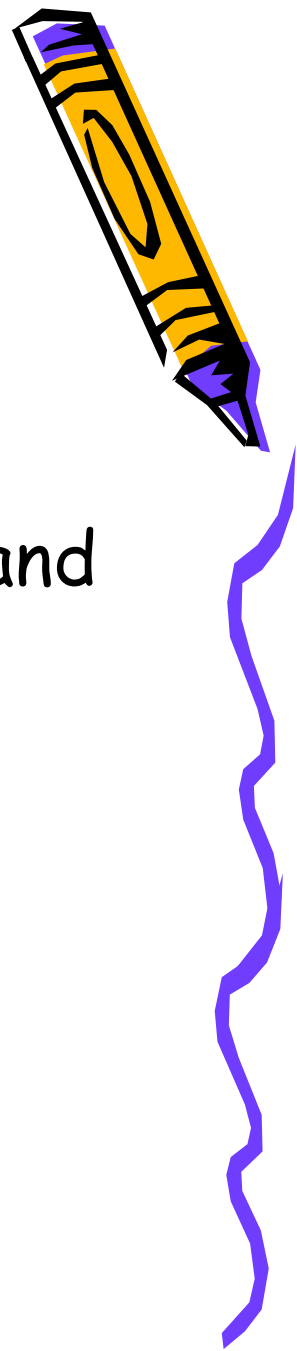


"...small, temporary discussion groups who have chosen to read the same story... The circles have regular meetings, with discussion roles rotating each session. When the finish a book, the circle members plan a way to share highlights of their reading with the wider community."

• (Daniels, 1994)



Who can use literature circles?



- Absolutely anyone
 - Independent use best for 2nd grade and above
 - K and 1st with teacher assistance and scaffolding



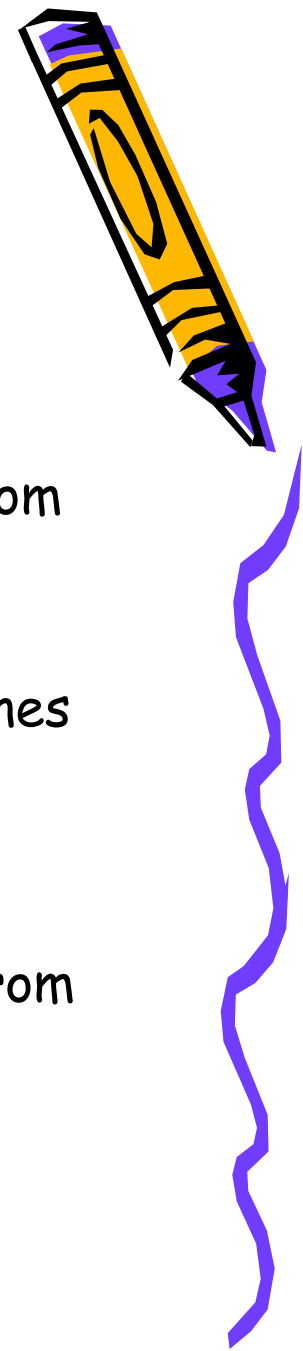
Use of literature circles increases



- Number of books read by children
- The time children spend reading on a daily basis
- Student interest in reading
- Student awareness of reading strategies
- Participation of reluctant readers
- Student selection of high quality children's literature
- Repeated readings
- The amount of time spent on task during the reading block
- Completion rate of class work
- Enthusiasm for learning



What are the students doing in literature circles?

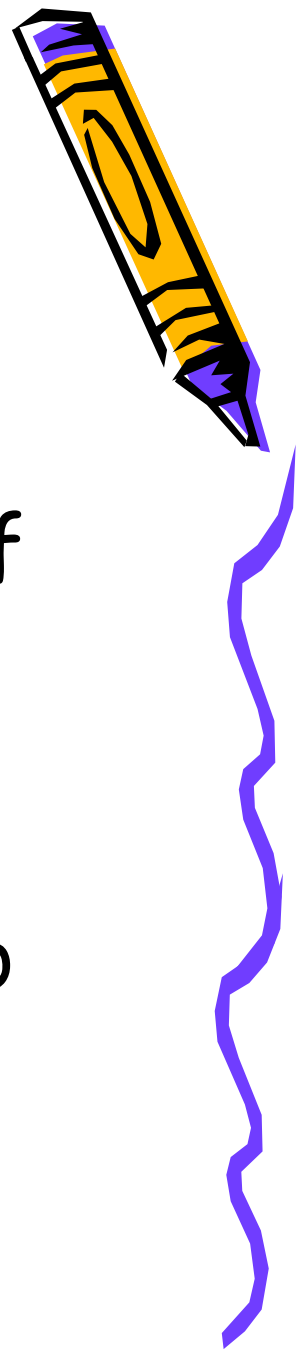


- **Director**
 - Guides group discussion and creates questions
- **Summarizer**
 - Summarizes daily reading
- **Inventor**
 - Creates a nf text feature not included
 - (graph, chart, diagram, glossary, picture and caption, map)
- **Visual Viewer**
 - Visualizes and illustrates scene from reading
- **Word Wizard**
 - Identifies and defines crucial vocabulary
- **Nonfiction Fact Finder**
 - Lists three facts from text
- **Bridge Builder**
 - Makes connections between events and text, self, world
- **Mapper**
 - Creates a graphic organizer



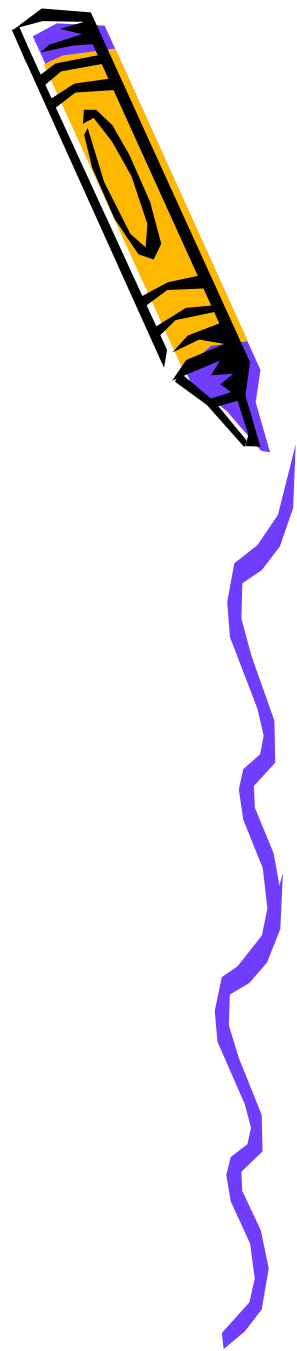
Why use role sheets?

- Serves as a guide for discussion
- Assesses student understanding of literature
- Helps students develop and use reading strategies
- Encourages students to respond to and interact with text

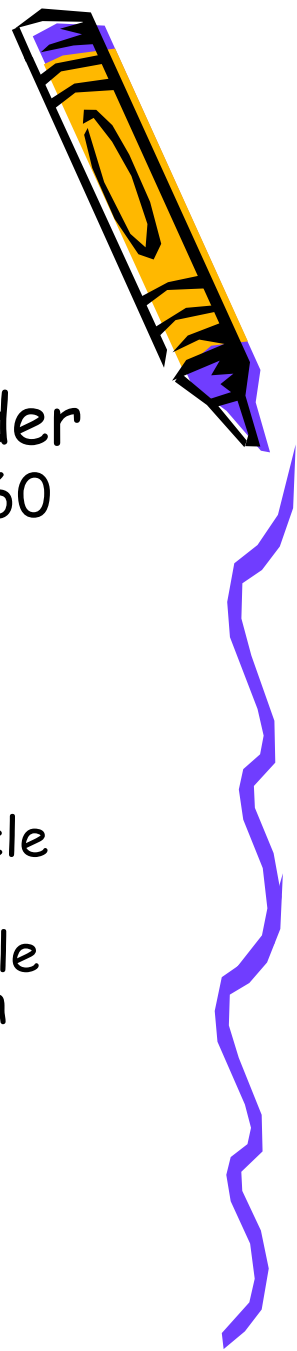


How do you teach students the "how to's"?

- Explain and model forms
 - Role forms
 - Model and teach one role at a time
 - Begin with a familiar text
 - Think alouds
 - Overhead



How do you teach students the "how to's"?

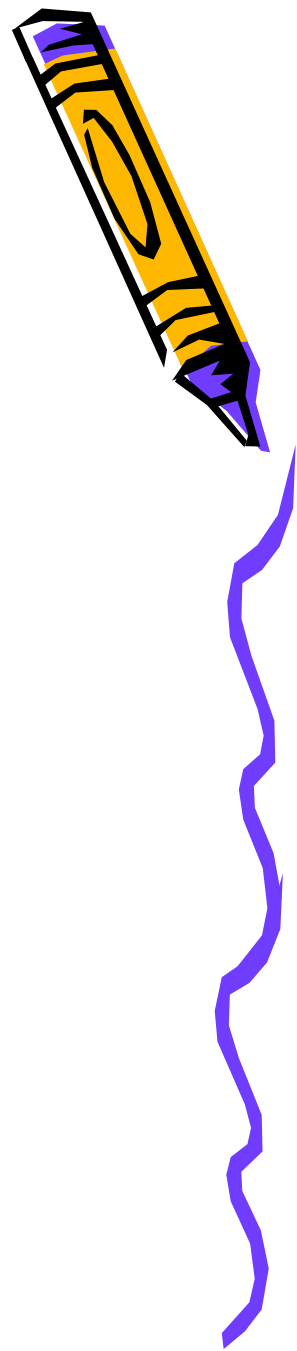


- K and 1
 - Approximately 30 minutes
 - 15 minutes teacher or students read book
 - Big Book with little books
 - Big Copy with little copies
 - 5-10 minutes small group discussion
 - 5-10 minutes whole group discussion
- Grades 2 and Older
 - Generally about 60 minutes
 - 35 minutes independent reading/role completion
 - 20 minutes circle discussion
 - 10 minutes whole class discussion



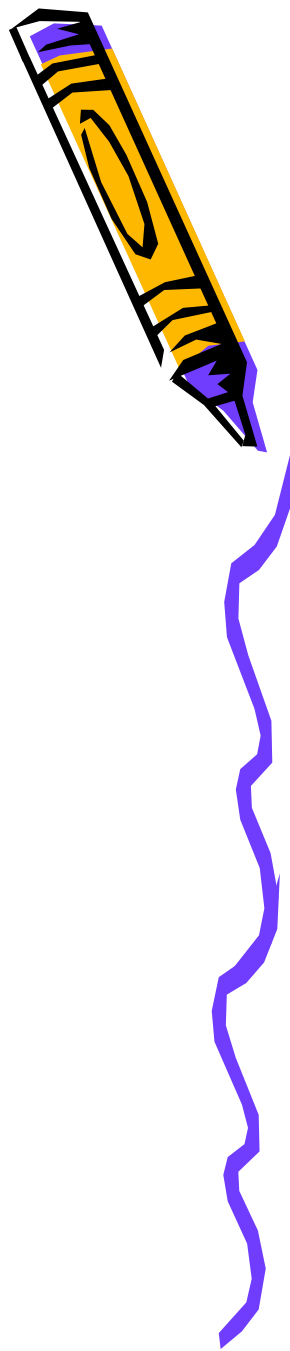
How do you teach students the "how to's"?

- Organize groups and role forms
 - Students keep forms and books
 - Organization chart
 - Role nametags or hats
 - Circle Supervisor
 - **Critical to rotate roles**

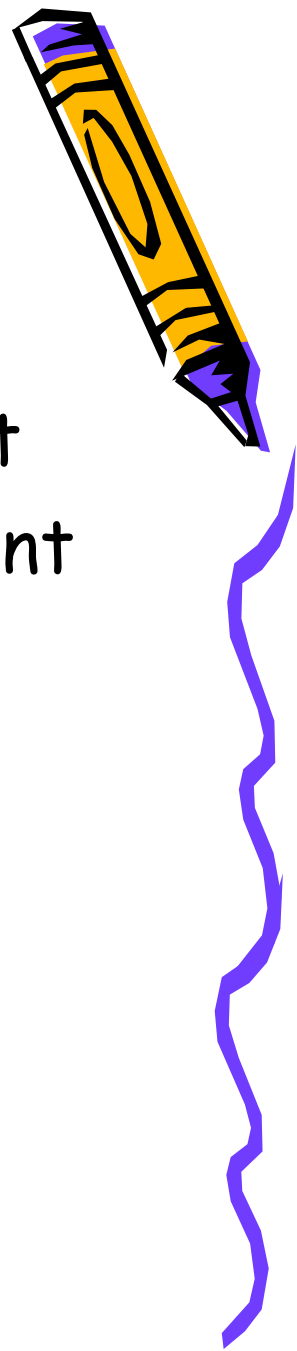


How do you teach students the "how to's"?

- Remember that redirection will be needed as students learn
 - Re-explain
 - Role play



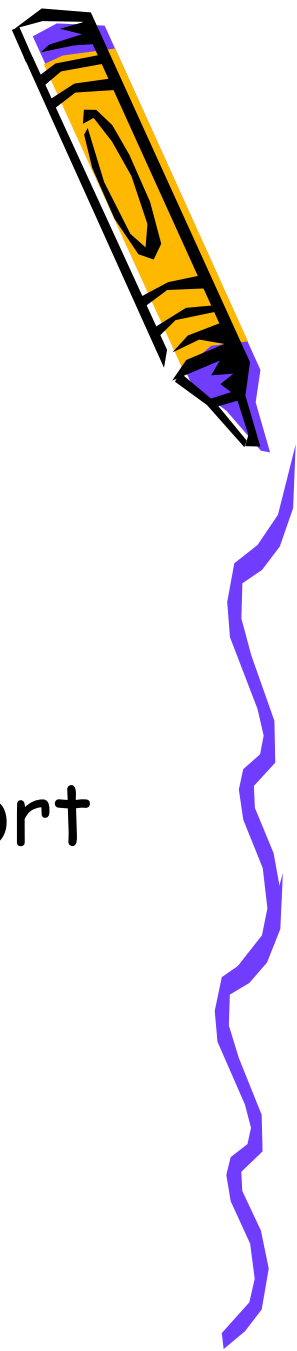
How do you assess literature circles?



- Observations
- Anecdotal notes
- Conferences
- Portfolios
- Projects
- Self assessment
- Group assessment
- Circle Star



How do you adapt for all reading levels?



- Simplify forms
- "Buddy Read"
- Different roles more suitable
- Literature circles inherently support struggling readers.



Does it work?



"Lit circles are really fun! Lit circles are very neat. They are very, very, very awesome. Lit circles are very complicated though. First you pick a book. Then you decide where to read up to. Next you read up to that page and you discuss the part that you read. Do that three times and then you do an awesome project then present it to the class. Like I told you lit circles are very fun. You should try a lit circle today. Trust me."

(Student response from Daniels, 1994)



Does it work?



"This structure allowed me the freedom to turn ownership over to the students. Students gained greater insight by sharing literature instead of reading in isolation. Students who never participated before during whole class discuss found a voice."

(Sandy, a 4th grade teacher in Daniels, 1999)



Resources

- *Classroom Literature Circles* by Elizabeth Aguerre
- *Literature Circle Role Sheets* by Christine Moen
- *Literature Circles* by Harvey Daniels
- "Really," "Not Possible," "I Can't Believe It": *Exploring Informational Text in Literature Circles* by Diane Barone & Rebecca Barone

