

# Strategies for Fun and Interesting Lit. Circles

## If your lit circle finishes early:

- Make predictions about what will happen next
- Pick a theme or topic from the reading and discuss how it applies to society today
- Pause and let each person write 1-3 interpretive questions. Then ask and answer each question.
- Make a list of beautiful, powerful words you've encountered
- Choose a character and imagine him or her at another age or point in life. Describe to your group.

## If one or more people are not reading:

- Tell them how you feel when they don't read.
- Text, facebook, or give reminders in person.
- Offer a hook that will grab their interest for the next assignment.
- Be honest in reflections and evaluations about your group.

## If the conversation feels uneven:

- Tally how many times each person speaks. Pause halfway through the conversation and encourage some to step up and some to step back.
- Set a personal goal for how much you will speak today.
- When someone asks a question, let each person go around the circle to answer it. Change up who starts each time.
- Everyone should be present with homework completed and reading done. Encourage and pressure each other.

## If you feel off-topic often:

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- Tally how many distractions you experience. Pause halfway through and report.
- Use “laser” when someone takes the conversation off track... gently.
- Let connections go one step away from the text then bring the conversation back to the reading.

If your conversations are surface level:

- Incorporate more “why” and “how” questions into your journals.
- Ask follow-up questions after a person answers. These can be open to anyone in the group.
- Academic connections (to class concepts, history, or literature) allow for deeper conversations. Make a goal to have at least one academic connection per journal.
- Try out the role of “devil’s advocate.” This person will respectfully disagree with others in the group by offering counter-arguments.