

Literature Circles

Emily Venson
9th Grade
New York City, NY



9:30
am



Introduction and Mini-Lesson

"I wanted to do a lit circles unit because that way each student ideally is doing something that is on his or her reading level or just a little bit above so they are being challenged, but students aren't bored with the reading or frustrated and forced to give up...."

10:00 am
Literature Circle
Discussions



Group 1 - 25 minutes



Group 2 - 30 minutes



Group 3 - 20 minutes

10:30
am



Discussion Reflection

10:45
am



Project Work (Group 1)

11:15
am



Wrap-Up

This website documents Emily Venson's use of literature circles in a ninth grade Humanities class in a small public high school in Manhattan in March and April 2007. In order to respond to the different strengths and needs of her students, Emily formed 6 groups (based on students' reading fluency and comprehension) in which students read *Habibi*, *Princess*, or *Kite Runner*. The unit was designed to help the students to develop a critical perspective and to recognize their own biases as well as those of others. The class depicted on this page includes a mini-lesson focusing on the strategy of "taking it back to the text", lit circle discussions in which students use the strategy, and group work on a project to compare the representation of conflicts in their books and to other conflicts in history ([read full overview](#)).

[Unit Overview](#)

[Video Archive](#)

[Reflective Interviews](#)

[Curriculum Materials](#)

[Student Work](#)

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About this website: This website has been created for the purpose of exploring the practice of teaching. It has grown out of work that Thomas Hatch and colleagues started with the [Knowledge Media Lab](#) at the [Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching](#), and is being continued at [NCREST](#): The National Center for Restructuring Education, Schools and Teaching, based at [Teachers College](#), Columbia University. This website was designed and produced by [Thomas Hatch](#) and [Pamela Gutman](#).