

Hannah Madson
WSRA 2026

“Your Circle Awaits” Session - Friday, Feb. 6, 2026

The following is a collection of the different resources as discussed in our session. If you have any questions, or would like help in creating and setting up Literature Circles and Socratic Seminar in your classrooms, please reach out. I love working with other educators and collaborating!

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Socratic Seminar Tutorials:



Example of Literature Circle Set Up for Book Choices:

Example

They Called Us Enemy

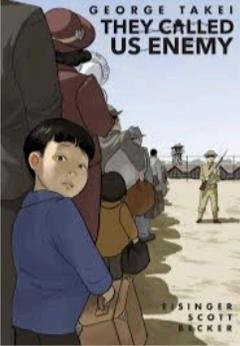
By: George Takei, Justin Eisinger Steven Scott

George Takei has captured hearts and minds worldwide with his captivating stage presence and outspoken commitment to equal rights. But long before he braved new frontiers in *Star Trek*, he woke up as a four-year-old boy to find his own birth country at war with his father's -- and their entire family forced from their home into an uncertain future.

In 1942, at the order of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, every person of Japanese descent on the west coast was rounded up and shipped to one of ten "relocation centers," hundreds or thousands of miles from home, where they would be held for years under armed guard.

Book Talks - [Link](#)

Topics: WWII Japanese American Internment camp; wartime violence; graphic novel



Example of Literature Circle Expectations, Problem Solving Strategies, and Discussion Questions:

Expectations

- **Listening to each other**
- **Don't talk over each other**
- **Stay on Topic - talk about your book**
- **Stay on Topic - while explaining your thoughts**
- **Stay with your group**
- **Don't be bossy**
- **Allow for pauses (to allow conversation)**
- **Speak to people in your group (not others)**
- **Speak at a level 1**

Problem Solving

- **Remind each other of the directions.**
- **If you haven't done your reading, still expected to participate by asking questions and contributing to conversation.**
- **Ask people not participating what they do know.**

Problem Solving

- **Communicate with each other and keep an open dialog.**
- **Take a break if you are overwhelmed.**
- **Ask people to move if they are being distracted.**

Discussion #2

1. Provide a quick recap of what has happened in your memoir since you last met.
2. Share your **direct quotes and explain** why those stood out to you. Try to connect your direct quotes to others in your group.
3. Bring up your thoughts (back it up with info from your book) on what you think the **theme is and at least 1 motif** that has stood out to you.

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Types of Socratic Seminar Discussions

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| Styles of Socratic Seminar | Pilot & Co-Pilot | Tap In/ Tap Out |
| | Students are partnered up. There is an inner circle and an outer circle of students. | Inner circle students facilitate the discussion. |
| | Only the inner circle talks, out circle students pass notes with evidence/questions based on the discussion happening in real time. | The outer circle students are standing and will tap into the conversation and switch places, once an inner circle student has contributed a specific amount to the conversation. |
| | Fish Bowl | Inner Circle/ Outer Circle |
| Between 4 - 6 students sit in a semi circle in front of the class. They are the only ones having a conversation. | Between 12 - 14 students sit in a circle with prep notes and sentence stems. | |
| Everyone else is taking notes and following the discussion. Note set up for this is important. | Everyone else is the outer circle. They take notes on the conversation happening with inner circle students. | |

Example 1: Literary Elements Socratic Seminar Prep

Socratic Seminar - Prep

Directions: You will use these notes during your socratic seminar discussion. They need to be filled in prior to your discussion. The last page will be filled out when you are listening to the other group.

Book Title: _____

Book Author:

Summary

Keep it brief; just the major highlights.

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Quotes

Direct Quotes and formatting. Use MLA citation.

| Quote 1 | Reason for Choosing It |
|----------------|-------------------------------|
| | |
| Quote 2 | Reason for Choosing It |
| | |

Open Ended Questions

Questions that cannot be answered with just "yes" or "no."

| Question 1 | Question 2 |
|------------|------------|
| | |

Author's Voice

Provide examples and reasoning for the type of Author's voice used in your text. Use supporting vocab terms (tone, mood, Character Voice, Narrator Voice, etc.)

| Voice | Example | Reason |
|-------|---------|--------|
| | | |
| Voice | Example | Reason |
| | | |

Theme 1 & Theme 2

| Motif 1 | Theme 1 |
|---------|---------|
| | |
| Motif 2 | Theme 2 |
| | |

Listening Note Taking

Directions: During the time you are on the outside circle, you will be filling out this section.

Similar Themes

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Interesting Information

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Connections

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Questions

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