Book Bistro

Purpose: To encourage students to talk about books they are reading and to give students a chance to receive book recommendations from their peers. RL8.10

Prepare:

* Clip of “Finer Things Club” (<https://youtu.be/9UsCHXs-wBY>) or S4:E6 start at 3:40-4:15 (Two different clips!)
* Print Questionnaire (see below)
* Arrange desks into 4-6 groups around the room
* Bring finger foods and encourage students to bring finger foods as well. Enlist some parent support if needed!
* Have students bring their favorite book and any props, etc. that they would like to bring.

Instructions:

* **Week Before:**  Hand out copies of the questionnaire to students. Explain the general idea of a book bistro and let students know that they will be expected to share quote and other short excerpts from their books. Remind them frequently throughout the week. **Survey the class for the types of books they are reading so that you can arrange groups accordingly!**
* **Day Before:** Show students the clip of the Finer Things Club. Explain how the bistro will work and remind students to bring the book they have been reading and a finger food to share. Explain that they can also bring any other desired, school appropriate props (costumes, etc.)
* **Day of:** Divide students into groups based on the books they have brought (ex. Genre, time period, authors, etc.)
	+ Once they are in their groups hand out extra copies of the bistro questionnaire. Explain that their discussion should be free flowing, but the questionnaire has questions to help them get started. Remind students that they should be sharing excerpts from their books, etc.
	+ Give students a few minutes to get finger foods, etc.
	+ Set a timer for 10-20 minutes (however long you want the bistro to last, how frequently you want them to switch groups, etc.)
	+ Monitor student discussions. Help struggling groups get started, encourage quiet members to share, etc. Occasionally remind students that they need to be competing the recommendations on their questionnaire.
	+ Have students turn in their questionnaire as an exit ticket. Hand the form back to students the very next day so that they can keep their recommendations.
* **Optional Rotation:** If desired, have students rotate groups throughout the class. Students can go to new groups with books and food to find more book ideas.

Group Ideas:

* Like Genres
* Like Time Periods
* Student Choice
* Character types (strong female lead, superhero, etc.)

Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Period:\_\_\_\_\_

Book Bistro Questionnaire

**Instructions**: In one week we will be having a Book Bistro in class. To participate, you will need to answer the following questions and come prepared to share your answers.

|  |
| --- |
| Prepare: |
| What genre does your book belong to? |  |
| Briefly summarize your book: |  |
| What were some of your favorite scenes? |  |
| What excerpts or quotes could you read to your group to make them excited about your book? |  |
| What literary elements did you find in your book? (fig. Language, symbolism, foreshadowing, etc.) |  |
| What major themes are in your book? |  |

**Instructions:** During the bistro, you will be discussing books similar to yours. This is a great time to get some reading recommendations! As you listen to/participate in the discussion, jot down some of the titles that sound interesting and why you might like that book.

|  |
| --- |
| Recommendations: |
| Title/Author: | This sounds interesting because… |
| Title/Author: | This sounds interesting because… |
| Title/Author: | This sounds interesting because… |