**Socratic Circles**

Because this is the first time we are doing Socratic Circles, I will participate and facilitate the discussion as necessary. In the future, you will be responsible for doing that as a class.

Socratic Circles work as follows:

1. Half of the group will form a small, inside circle. The other half of the group will form a larger circle around the outside of the small circle.
2. For the first session, the inside circle will discuss, and the outside circle will take notes. I will prompt the inside circle with a discussion question. The inside circle will then proceed to discuss the prompt question, ask each other new questions, point out interesting parts, ect. The idea is that the group will be talking about the text for about 15 minutes.
3. After the inside circle is done discussing the piece, the outside circle will be allowed to comment for about 5 minutes. The outside circle can add ideas and information, ask questions about comments made by the inside circle, and compliment the inside circle on any comments they found insightful. This is not a time to criticize people.
4. For the second session, the two circles will physically switch places and roles. The outside circle becomes the inside circle and vice versa. I will give a new prompt question. The time limits and roles will be the same as during the first session.
5. The following are my expectations for your behavior during Socratic Circles:
   1. Everyone will participate when they are in the inside circle. That means you must speak – either with at least one insightful comment or thought provoking question.
   2. No one person should dominate the discussion- let everyone have a turn to share.
   3. When you are responding to someone else’s comments, be respectful. You can have a different opinion and share it without devaluing someone else’s.
   4. Socratic Circles ARE NOT A DEBATE! Socratic Circles are a way to share different perspectives and broaden people’s ideas – the goal is not to try to force everyone to agree with you.
   5. If you are in the outside circle YOU CANNOT TALK. AT ALL.

**Inside Circle Prep Work**

This time, we will do all the prep work in class. In the future, you will have to do the prep work on your own.

* Read and annotate the text.
* Prepare three discussion questions. Possible types of questions are explained below:

*World Connection Question* – a question connecting the text to another discipline area or life experience

*Open-ended Question* – a question whose answer will be controversial or prompt discussion (the person answering should have to support their answer)

*Universal Theme Question* – a question about the theme (or big idea) of the text

*Literary Analysis Question* – a question dealing with how an author wrote the text

* Prepare three insightful comments/observations. Make sure you use specific examples from the text to support your statements.