

Literature Circle: Blended

Grades:	5th – 7th
Day of Week:	Wednesday
Time of Class:	9:00 am – 10:30 am ET
Length of Class:	10 weeks
Semester:	Spring 2024
Tuition:	\$250.00

Class Dates:

Week 1: Week of March 25

Week 2: Week of April 1

Week of April 8: No Classes due to Eid (Muslim) Holiday – Eid Mubarak to our Muslim families!

Week 3: Week of April 15

Weeks of April 22 and April 29: No Classes – Spring Break – Happy Passover to our Jewish families!

Week 4: Week of May 6

Week 5: Week of May 13

Week 6: Week of May 20

Week 7: Week of May 27

Week 8: Week of June 3

Week 9: Week of June 10

Week 10: Week of June 17

Make-Up Days: Week of June 24

Instructor's Name:	Eva Goldstein - Meola
Instructor's Email:	eva@writingteacher.com
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Description of Class:

Eleven-year-old Isabella's parents are divorced, so she has to switch lives every week: One week she's Isabella with her dad, his girlfriend Anastasia, and her son Darren living in a fancy house where they are one of the only black families in the neighborhood. The next week she's Izzy with her mom and her boyfriend John-Mark in a small, not-so-fancy house that she loves.

Because of this, Isabella has always felt pulled between two worlds. And now that her parents are divorced, it seems their fights are even worse, and they're always about HER. Isabella feels even more stuck in the middle, split, and divided between them than ever. And she's beginning to realize that being split between Mom and Dad is more than switching houses, switching nicknames, switching backpacks: it's also about switching identities.

Her dad is black, her mom is white, and strangers are always commenting:

“You're so exotic!”

“You look so unusual.”

“But what are you really?”

She knows what they're really saying:

“You don't look like your parents.”

“You're different.”

“What race are you really?”

And when her parents, who both get engaged at the same time, get in their biggest fight ever, Isabella doesn't just feel divided, she feels ripped in two. What does it mean to be half white or half black? To belong to half mom and half dad? And if you're only seen as half of this and half of that, how can you ever feel whole?

It seems like nothing can bring Isabella's family together again—until the worst happens. Isabella and Darren are stopped by the police. A cell phone is mistaken for a gun. And shots are fired.

What is a Literature Circle?

In literature circles, small groups of students gather to discuss a piece of literature in depth. The discussion is guided by students' responses to what they have read. You may hear talk about events and characters in the book, the author's craft, or personal experiences related to the story. Literature circles provide a way for students to engage in critical thinking and reflection as they read, discuss, and respond to books. Collaboration is at the heart of this approach. Students reshape and add onto their understanding as they construct meaning with other readers. Finally, literature circles guide students to deeper understanding of what they read through structured discussion and extended written and artistic response.

Class Approach:

The class will be a combination of reading comprehension review via Kahoot!, in class journal writing/freewrite, vocabulary, discussion, and creative assignments.

Textbook:

Blended

By Sharon Draper

<https://www.amazon.com/Blended-Sharon-M-Draper/dp/1442495006>

**** PLEASE DO NOT HAVE STUDENTS PRE-READ BOOK. ****

Additional Supplies/Resources Needed:

Microphone / Headset for Class Discussions

single subject spiral notebook for journal reflections

Pencil / Pen

Colored Pencils / Markers / Crayons

Basic Art Supplies

Access to PowerPoint (if student chooses this option)

Requirements:

A sensitivity to other students and any emotions that may come out during the reading of the book as well as discussions.

Students are EXPECTED to participate in class discussions.

Weekly Homework:

Approximately a 60 – 90 minutes weekly.

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Homework Policy:

It is expected that students will keep up with the reading to be able to fully participate in class.

Grading Scale:

Exceeds Expectations

Meets Expectations

Not Yet

Incomplete

If parents would like a traditional letter grade, please notify the teacher by week two of the class.