

Book Clubs

SCARAB : A COLT WILDER ADVENTURE **By Nathan Karstulovich**

Find yourself a group of readers and dive into Scarab by Nathan Karstulovich. As you read, get together with your club members and discuss what you have read.

Before each discussion period complete a Book Club Role Sheet. Each Role Sheet should be completed fully before your club meeting. Your teacher will assign roles to begin your clubs and then roles will rotate through your members.

At various times throughout your reading, your teacher will assign a thinking question. It should be completed by each member individually, in full paragraphs. It should also include a note about which reading strategy helped you get through the text or discussions and a brief paragraph about your understanding of the chapters you read.

Finally, your book club members will present a promotional piece for your book. Start thinking about a promotion while you read.

Enjoy reading!

Promoting the Book:

When your book has been completed your club will put together a presentation complete with a promotional item. The success of your presentation will be based on the percentage of the class you can convince to take a look at your book.

Reading Strategies:

Enjoy your book. Take some time to read today!

While you are reading, remember to use your sticky notes.

Your sticky notes should be stuck into each page in your book where you used a reading strategy.

Your reading strategies are:

Visualizing - creating pictures in your mind (or on paper) of what you think is happening.

Questioning - keeping track of things you don't understand or are curious about (remember to answer them as you read more).

Connecting - making a connection to other texts, to your life, or to anything that comes to mind. Most importantly, be sure to think about how your connection helps you to understand the book better.

Inferencing - making an educated guess about what might be coming up in the story. An inference is based on things you already know about the story or the characters.

Determining Importance - thinking about messages in the story or thinking about what events are important to the development of the story.

Synthesizing - putting it all together. Make connections between important parts and inferences, or your connections and the things you visualize. This may help to answer some of your questions.

Did you remember to:

Have all members read to the same point in your book?

Discuss which strategies helped you understand your reading?

Discuss any oddities, symbols, or underlying meaning in what you read?

Complete your journal entry, including club discussion, strategies and your views?

Answer the question of the day?

Think about how your club might promote your book?

Thinking Questions:

(One question should be answered - in order - at each of the book club meetings)

1. Explain 3 characteristics of the main character in your novel. Complete a character sketch (in words) of one character. Each group member should choose a different character.
2. Explain 4 characteristics that show that your novel is either a fictional narrative or a non-fiction piece of writing.
3. What could be added to this book to help you better understand the story or information?
4. Find 5 new or difficult words in your novel. Determine what part of speech each word is (noun, verb, adjective, etc.). Come up with a strategy to help you learn how to spell the word. Determine the meaning of each word.
5. What is the main idea of the novel?
6. Use information from the book and your own ideas to explain a personality trait that you believe the author possesses.
7. Compare and contrast the world of your book to the world you live in. Explain which world you would prefer to be a part?
8. Write a summary of your book. (3/4 of a page only)

Character Sketch

Book Title:	
Name:	
Age:	
Height:	
Eye color:	
Hair color:	
Other physical characteristics	
Personality characteristics	
What actions does the character do to show his/her personality characteristics?	
Character elements – does the character have a physical description? A personality? An important reason to be in the story?	
Missing character elements	
Does the character help or work against the main character? How?	

Book Clubs Final Assignment

Your mission, if you wish to accept it (and even if you don't), is to make people want to read your book.

In your Book Club groups, you will work together a few times a week in order to help each other understand the story and comprehend the messages that are delivered in the book. A new bookmark will be supplied for each session that will direct the discussion for the day. A reflection page must be handed in at the end of each session, with a one to two paragraph response explaining what was discussed that day and how you contributed to the discussion.

Finally, when your book is completed, you will create a review that makes people want to read your book. Your review may be made in any of the following ways:

- A written review
- A pod cast
- A radio style broadcast
- A television style broadcast
- A blog
- A book-in-a-box
- A newspaper review
- A graphic novel
- Any other form discussed with the teacher

Your review must include, but is not limited to the following:

- A summary of the book
- Detailed character sketches
- Detailed plot line (beginning, middle, end, climax, problem, solution)
- Questions you asked while reading, and answers
- Connections you made
- Why you liked or disliked the book
- Why someone else would enjoy reading the book

Your final product is due on: _____

Book Clubs Role Sheets

You can find all of the Role Sheets for students on the pages that follow. Feel free to adjust the roles to suit your classroom and/or teaching style.

Synthesizer/Summarizer

Name: _____

Meeting Date: _____

Book: _____

Chapters Read: _____

Synthesizer: Your job is to prepare a brief summary of today's reading. Your group discussion will start with your 1-2 minute statement that covers the key points, main highlights and general idea of today's chapters read.

Summary:

Key Points:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Connections: How did today's chapters connect to the previous chapters you read?

Questioner/Discussion Director

Name: _____

Meeting Date: _____

Book: _____

Chapters Read: _____

Questioner: Your job is to develop a list of questions that your group might want to discuss about this part of the book. Don't worry about the small details; your task is to help people talk over the big ideas in the reading and share their reactions. Usually the best discussion questions come from your own thoughts, feelings and concerns as you read. You can list them below during or after your reading. You may also use some of the general questions below to guide your group discussions.

Possible discussion questions or topics for today:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

General Questions to help guide you:

Are the characters realistic? Symbolic of something? Historically based?

What motivates the characters to make their choices?

What main events make the story interesting?

What parts of the story were confusing?

Is there a historical significance to the story?

What is the main message in the story?

Topics to be carried over to the next discussion:

Visualizer/Illustrator

Name: _____

Meeting Date: _____

Book: _____

Chapters Read: _____

Visualizer: Your job is to draw a picture or a group of images that came to mind while you were reading your chapters. Good readers make pictures in their minds as they read. It can be a sketch, cartoon, diagram, flowchart, or stick-figure scene. Any kind of drawing or graphic is alright - you can even label things with words if it helps.

You can present your visualization at any time in the discussion. Tell your group what your picture means, refer to the parts in the text that relate to the illustration and explain what it represents to you.

Researcher

Name: _____

Meeting Date: _____

Book: _____

Chapters Read: _____

Visualizer: Your job is to dig up some background information on any relevant topic related to your book. This might include:

- The geography, weather, culture, or history of the book's setting
- Information about the author and other related texts
- Information about the time period portrayed in the book
- Information on any topics or events represented in the book
- Pictures, objects, or materials that illustrate elements of the book
- The history of words, names or places used in the book

This is not a formal research project. The idea is to find some information that helps your group understand the book better. Investigate something that interests you or struck you as odd or puzzling.

You may want to use:

- The "about the author" section of the book
- Library books or magazines
- On-line computer search
- Interviews with real people
- Non-fiction texts on the topic

Travel Tracer

Name: _____

Meeting Date: _____

Book: _____

Chapters Read: _____

Travel Tracer: Your job is to trace the path of your main character as he/she travels through the story. When you are reading a book in which the characters move around frequently, it is important that your whole group understands where in the world the chapters take place. Carefully track where the action takes place. Describe each setting in detail, either in words or with an action map or diagram.

Describe or sketch the setting (you may need another piece of paper)

Where today's action begins:

Page where it is described: _____

Where key events happen:

Page where it is described: _____

Where today's events end:

Page where it is described: _____

Word Wizard

Name: _____

Meeting Date: _____

Book: _____

Chapters Read: _____

Word Wizard: Your job is to be on the lookout for a few words that have special meaning in today's reading selection. The words used by an author are an important ingredient to the story. Find some good words.

Jot down puzzling or unfamiliar words while you are reading. Later, look up the definitions. You may also run across words that stand out in the text - words that are repeated, used in an unusual way, or are crucial to the text. Jot these words down too and be sure to share them in your discussion.

Note: When discussing words, you should always refer to the text in order to examine the context in which the word was used.

Word	Page & Paragraph #	Definition	Why you chose it

Writing Suggestions for use with Scarab

Book Sections/Chapter Groups	Activities
Crossover	Writing a recount of Agent 11's day
Surf's Up, At Sea, Dive Pro	Writing a Turkish menu
Overheard, Captain Falcone	Writing a letter to someone who could help Crissy
Training Days, Higher Education, The Search, Then Boom	Writing a newspaper report on the search for Kaan or the explosions
Myth and Legend	Writing an exposition on why the foibe was (or was not) a reasonable prison
Rooftop Escapade, Mother McLennan, Kaan Academy	Writing a report on the life of Casanova
Cabin Fever, Tunnel Vision, Furious Foibe	Writing an explanation of the foibe
Dried Up, Geography 101	Writing a report on the importance of fresh water
True Falcone, Third Generation Kaan	Writing a recount of Falcone's actions
Non-Existant	Writing a report on Rijeka/Fiume in 1920
The Departed, Great Escape	Writing a newspaper article on Colt
Summer's Fall, Springing Summer	Writing a procedure about how Summer is saved
Castle Storming, Thunderous Roar	Writing an explanation of how the cabin exploded
Baptismal Goat	Writing an explanation of how Colt's life mirrors the life of George and/or Ersilia
School's Out, Greatest Trick	Writing a narrative about where Falcone has gone