Exploring literature discussion groups through children's literature: an honors thesis (HONRS 499)

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Abstract:
This project explored the how's and why's of literature discussion groups. It includes a history of literature discussion groups, research findings, benefits of, and different methods of literature discussion groups. It provides a systematic resource for teachers who want to incorporate literature discussion groups into their language arts curriculum. It also includes the National Council of Teachers of English & The International Reading Association standards for English/Language Arts and how literature discussion groups meet and exceed these standards. The second half of my project is based upon my experiences implementing literature discussion groups. I have had the opportunity to learn from students while participating in three different literature discussion groups over the summer of 2001. I have also had opportunities to work with fourth grade students during my student teaching experience. I will use these experiences to talk about the benefits I have witnessed firsthand from literature discussion groups. One of my goals as an educator is to help all children gain an appreciation and a love for reading. I feel that literature discussion groups are one method of reaching my goal.

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