

Great Books Foundation

Parent Leader Training Workshop

Overview

Purpose: to prepare participants to begin conducting Shared Inquiry Discussions as a volunteer Junior Great Books leader. To help participants organize a discussion-only, enrichment Junior Great Books program using the Shared Inquiry method of learning through reading and discussion of outstanding literature.

Note: this course is not open to teachers, as it will not cover use of the interpretive activities in the classroom or assessment of student work or other issues of interest to professional educators. Teachers, and volunteers who will be working closely with teachers using Great Books as part of the curriculum, are encouraged to take our Core Sequence of professional development courses.

Objectives:

- * introduce participants to the Shared Inquiry method of learning and its use in the Junior Great Books program
- * demonstrate the nature and benefits of Shared Inquiry discussion
- * engage in the leader's process for preparing to lead a Shared Inquiry discussion
- * give participants practice as leaders (and participants) in Shared Inquiry discussion, with a focus on using follow-up questions effectively

Activities:

Introduction

course purpose and overview
components and benefits of Great Books programs

Demonstration discussion

uses of the seating chart
active reading and note-taking (JGB selection)
definition of Shared Inquiry discussion and five guidelines
instructor-led discussion
reflections on elements and benefits
students' ideas (video excerpt, when available)
Q & A

Preparing to lead a reading in Shared Inquiry

distinguishing interpretive questions
active reading and note-taking (JGB selection)
writing and testing interpretive questions in pairs/small groups
introduction to follow-up questions
co-leading and participating in small group discussions or
role-playing of potential problems in discussion

Note: the lunch break is generally only a half-hour. Participants should be instructed to bring a lunch.