## **Contents**

Acknowledgments vii
Introductionix
Chapter 1 Building a Framework for Literature Circles 1
Where Do Literature Circles Fit into Everything Else I'm Teaching? 1
What Benefits Will My Students Attain?
How Do I Set Goals That Will Get Me Started?3
How Do I Teach to Reach the Goals I've Set? 4
Some Final Thoughts on Setting Goals5
Chapter 2 Classroom Climate
Establish a Climate of Collaboration and Respect
Establish a Climate of Independence and Responsibility
Establish a Climate of Response9
Some Final Thoughts on Classroom Climate
Common Questions About Climate
Chapter 3 Structure
What Do Literature Circles in Different Classrooms Have in Common? 11
Planning a Timeline
Putting the Pieces Together
A Glimpse into Two Classrooms
Vicki Yousoofian, First Grade
Lori Scobie, Fourth Grade
Some Final Thoughts on Structure
Common Questions About Structure
Chapter 4 Good Books for Literature Circles
What Makes a Good Literature Circle Book?
What Books Do I Start With?
How Do I Find Books to Fit a Range of Reading Abilities and Interests? 38
How Do I Obtain Multiple Copies?
What Are Some Good Book Sets to Use?
Some Final Thoughts on Good Books
A Question About Books
Chapter 5 Discussion 4
What Are Your Goals for Discussion?42
Selecting a Discussion Format
A Discussion Framework43

Assessing and Evaluating Discussions	
Some Final Thoughts on Discussion	59
Common Questions About Discussion	59
Chapter 6 Response Journals	63
Clarify Your Purposes for Response Journals	64
Help Students Understand the Purpose of Response Journals	65
Help Students Understand How to Focus Their Journal Response	s 65
How and Why Response Journals Change Over Time	71
Teaching the Response Forms	
Assessing and Evaluating Journal Responses	
Some Final Thoughts on Response Journals	
Common Questions About Response Journals	
Chapter 7 Focus Lessons: Incorporating Literacy Strategies	81
What Are Focus Lessons? Why Do Them?	
Where Do Focus Lessons Come From?	82
Types of Focus Lessons	82
Components of a Focus Lesson	86
Keeping Track of Focus Lessons	87
Some Final Thoughts on Focus Lessons	
Common Questions About Focus Lessons	
Chapter 8 Extension Projects	91
Definitions and Benefits	91
Extension Project Possibilities	
Extension Project Focus	
The Process of Extension Projects	
Guiding Students Through the Process	
Extension Project Presentations	
Assessing and Evaluating Extension Projects	
Some Final Thoughts on Extension Projects	
Common Questions About Extension Projects	
·	
Final Thoughts	107
	100
References	109
Children's Literature Cited	111
Index	113