**Tips for Successful Socratic Circles, English 2E**

Prepare

* READ READ READ READ RE-READ RE-READ
* Prepare to participate. Answer prompt questions in writing and develop questions of your own.
* Probe deeply into the text. Respond to questions with textual support—SHOW us where in the story we should look.
* Extend beyond the text. Discussions should examine multiple perspectives and multiple right answers.
* The quality of the discussion is diminished when participants are not prepared.

Participate

* In the inner circle,
  + Listen to the speaker and allow them time to complete a thought.
  + Build on what was said.
    - Ask questions for elaboration, clarification, and examples.
    - Synthesize what has been said and add to it.
    - Respectfully disagree
  + Circle back to ideas for further discussion.
  + Offer and respect differing ideas, thoughts and values.
  + Invite multiple perspective (“\_\_\_\_\_, what do you think?”)
  + Paraphrase what someone said and add to it.
* In the outer circle,
  + Actively listen.
  + Take notes.
  + Don’t talk.
  + If you have a role (timer, mapper, co-pilot, etc.), take it seriously.

Reflect – **In your Reading Notebook** write about the three areas listed below

1. **Summarize** the content of the discussion. What were the most important points made about the text?
2. **Reflect** on your own participation and on the group’s process. Examples of questions to respond to:
   * How did you contribute to the discussion? What did you add to it?
   * What new questions do you have about the text?
   * Who helped move the dialogue forward?
   * Were there lapses and how did the group handle them?
3. **Set goals** for the next discussion. Examples of questions to respond to:
   * What will you do differently next time?
   * How can you be a more active listener?
   * How can you prepare better?