

# Literature Circles

Emily Venson  
9th Grade  
New York City, NY



**3/13**  
**Introduction to *Habibi*,  
*Kite Runner*,  
and *Princess* Unit (doc)**

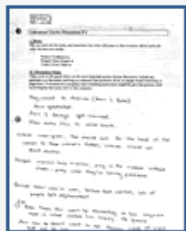
**3/16**  
**Minilesson:  
Determining Biases (doc)**

**3/20**  
**Minilesson:  
Follow-Up Questions (doc)**

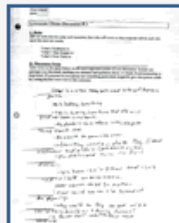
*"We've had students focus on identifying what their own bias was... identifying what they think the main characters biases are, and what the author's bias is, and then that translates into "okay now that we know that there's this particular bias in the book, what do we do with that?" How do we use that to make meaning in what we are reading?"*



**Group 1 Discussion  
22:20 min**



**Notes (pdf)**



**Notes (pdf)**

**3/23**  
**Minilesson:  
Taking it Back to the Text (doc)**



**Group 1 Discussion  
24:43 min**

**3/27**  
**Minilesson:  
Identifying  
Textual Themes (doc)**

**3/29 and 3/30  
Group Presentations**



**Group 1 Presentation  
12:12 min  
(ppt)**

This webpage follows one group of students in Emily Venson's ninth grade Humanities class as they read *Princess*, a novel set in the Middle East. Each day, Emily provided a "mini-lesson" focusing on a key reading or discussion skill. After the mini-lesson, students used those skills in small group discussions about the book. Emily supported the students' reading and their discussions by providing them with guides for taking notes, and also collected those notes so she could monitor the progress of each group. The unit culminated with a group presentation about the representation of conflicts in their book (read full overview).

**Group Discussion - 3/23**

**Video Archive**

**Reflective Interviews**

**Curriculum Materials**

**Student Work**

**Printable PDF of This Page**

*About this website:* This website has been created for the purpose of exploring the practice of teaching. It has grown out of work that Thomas Hatch and colleagues started with the Knowledge Media Lab at the [Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching](#), and is being continued at [NCREST: The National Center for Restructuring Education, Schools and Teaching](#), based at [Teachers College, Columbia University](#). This website was designed and produced by [Thomas Hatch](#) and [Pamela Gutman](#).