

## Sample Responses for Literature Circles

Passage and page number from the novel	My response or reason for wanting to discuss this with the group
<p><u>Sample Response for Main Character</u></p> <p>“Recently, Salim abu-Ibrahim had withdrawn from other people. The villagers only saw him at dawn, when he went to his olive trees.” (113)</p>	<p>Salim (Abu Ibrahim) seems very sad. I wonder why he has stopped talking to other people? The olive trees seem important to him, like a comfort or something.</p>
<p><u>Sample Response for Family/Friends</u></p> <p>“Please listen to me, Abu Ibrahim,” she implored. “I haven’t asked you to move...If you think it’s a mistake, well, don’t go!” (113)</p>	<p>He and his wife are in conflict about whether to stay or go. She misses their children, but he seems to want to stay. He feels she is influencing him too much.</p>
<p><u>Sample Response for Cultural</u></p> <p>“That’s enough!” shouted Abu Ibrahim. “I told you to stop!” To escape his wife’s voice, he wound his <i>kaffiyyeh</i> around his head and left the house...The olive trees were still there, waiting for him. (113)</p>	<p>The <i>kaffiyeh</i> is a traditional Palestinian men’s head scarf that became a popular symbol after the Arab revolt in 1930. Olive trees are a symbol of Palestine. Is that why they’re so important to him?</p>
<p><u>Sample Response for Homeland</u></p> <p>“What do you think the refugees feel like, who have to live in caves and in shacks?” (114)</p>	<p>He’s talking about Palestinian refugees after the Arab-Israeli War in 1948. Their kids seem to be better off than refugees are. I wonder why?</p>