

DOTORI BOOK CLUB (4-5)

THURS 6:30-8:00 PM

Spring 2026



GOALS

- Strengthen advanced reading comprehension and critical thinking skills through rich texts.
- Develop academic vocabulary and learn to use textual evidence in discussion and writing.
- Practice public speaking, debate, and research skills through culminating projects.

4/2

WEEK 1

Introduction & Book Choice Debate

Choose between *Harriet the Spy* (by Louise Fitzhugh) or *Shadow Jumper* (by J.M. Forster) and debate why their choice should be read.

Mini-lesson on constructing arguments and using textual evidence.

4/9

WEEK 2

Building Background Knowledge

Build context for reading by exploring the setting, historical background, and key vocabulary through group research and discussion.

4/23

WEEK 3

Character Study

Examine complex characters: internal vs. external traits, protagonists vs. antagonists, flat vs. round characters. Analyze dialogues, character development and relationships in depth.

4/30

WEEK 4

Plot Study

Study plot structure and types of conflict. Identify problems and solutions. Practice summarizing events using key details.

5/7

WEEK 5

Fiction Final Project

Students create a final project (PPT or Bloom's Ball) to synthesize learning about setting, characters, and plot. Presentations and peer feedback.

5/14

WEEK 6

Non-Fiction Launch:

What's the Point of Science? (DK) Topic: What's the Point of Physics?

Introduce S.P.O.T strategy for reading scientific non-fiction. Explore text features using the opening Physics chapters. Discuss how energy powers everyday life.

5/21

WEEK 7

Topic: How to Have X-Ray Vision / How to Spot a Submarine

Read about light, waves, and how scientists "see" what's invisible. Use a cause-and-effect graphic organizer to show how X-rays or sonar work.

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5/28

WEEK 8

Topic: What's the Point of Chemistry? How to Stop the Pain

Transition to Chemistry- discuss what chemistry studies and why it matters.
Explore how scientists developed medicine to stop pain.

6/4

WEEK 9

Topic: Can You Make Gold? / How to Predict the Future

Explore how chemistry changed daily life — from alchemy to modern materials.
Discuss whether scientific changes are positive or negative.

6/11

WEEK 10

Topic: Physicists and Chemists (Final Project)

A research-based project focusing on one scientist the questions they asked, their discoveries, and why their work matters today, with opportunities to present findings and give and receive peer feedback.

**** This plan may be adjusted at any time based on students' progress and pacing.**