Literary Report Card

What is a Literary Report Card and why is it important?

A Literary Report Card (Johnson & Louis, 1987) encourages students to analyze and evaluate characters' actions and traits. In other words, students take on the role of the teacher and grade characters on their attributes and behaviors.

How can I use a Literary Report Card with my students?

After reading a story, distribute Literary Report Cards and explain them to students. Invite them to choose a character or assign one you want them to evaluate. Then help students determine the characteristics on which the character should be graded; write those in the appropriate space under the subject heading.

Now tell students to assume the role of a teacher who is assigning a grade based on a character's performance in the story. Tell them to write down a letter grade for each "subject" on the report card. Ask them to write comments to support each grade. Students can grade one or more characters on the same traits. If they evaluate more than one, they can then compare and discuss the differences between the characters. The information on the Literary Report Card can be used to write a Character Sketch.

Following is an example of a Literary Report Card for Natasha, a character in *Babushka's Doll.*

Character:		
Subject	**Letter Grade**	**Comments**
naughtiness	A	She wanted to do everything now.
thoughtfulness	D	She asked Babushka to rush and do everything for her when Babushka was busy.
politeness	B	She asked permission to play with Babushka's doll.
responsibility	A	Natasha stayed alone and took good care of the doll.

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

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Characters:					
Subject:	**Grade:**	**Comments:**	**Grade:**	**Comments:**	

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

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Subject:	Grade:	Comments:	Grade:	Comments:

Name: _____   **Date:** _____

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Character:		
Subject:	**Grade:**	**Comments:**

Name: _____   **Date:** _____

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Character:		
Subject:	**Grade:**	**Comments:**