Gina Ercolani

RIFF/INSIDER  
first time I met with the Literature circle groups

For my Riff/insider I am going to a local middle school and several of us are doing literature circle groups. Each group selected a different book that we have chosen by surveys we gave to find the students different interests. My group picked *Sixth Grade Secrets* by Louis Sachar. The way I went about choosing a book for the girls in my group is by other books they said they had read already either in school or outside of school. All the girls said they liked diaries, cheerleading and friends. The book chooses I gave all had a little something that they told me about themselves. When I picked the four books I knew this would most likely be the book all four girls would pick because it seemed like something that would interest all of them. This book is 209 pages and about rivalry, trust, betrayal, and blackmail among a precocious group of sixth graders who are vying for popularity. Laura and her girlfriends create the Pig City Club at her school. But the club is secret, and to ensure that no one spills the beans, the members take out "insurance" and tell Laura one secret about themselves. Anyone who talks about the club will have her secret told to the entire school. But when Laura allows Gabriel, a boy in her class, to join the club, a rival club is formed, and the Pig City girls are embarrassed when their insurance secrets are revealed. A web of betrayal is spun! Sachar uses his trademark humor to reveal a common social phenomenon in adolescent life, and readers in this stage of their lives may recognize their classmates or themselves in this engaging read.

When we first got to the school Dr. Sherry put us into our literature circle groups; we got to meet with them and find out more about them. We used two trues and one false to find more out about each other. My group really seemed to enjoy this, even though they have class and are friends with each other they still found out new things about one another. After this we learned more about literature circles and there were two girls in my group that stood out to me. I do not know enough about them to decide which one I think I want to observe and write for my Riff/Insider but I do have two girls in mind. One of the girls, was very outgoing and always wanted my attention and to be talking. The other girl was quiet and I noticed the teacher had to come over and help her and make sure she understands where we were at while Dr. Sherry was talking. These two girls are both very different so I think I still need to go one more time till I decide which one I would like to observe.

My group I think will really enjoy this book. They had four books to choose from and it came to a tie between two books and the girls made their case as to why they thought the book they had chosen would be better. In the end the girls decided on this book and seemed very excited to read it.

**Reading the first few pages of the book:**

# <http://www.amazon.com/Sixth-Grade-Secrets-Apple-Paperbacks/dp/0590460757/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1331151898&sr=8-1#reader_0590460757>