

Capt. Test Response to Literature Essay Prompt Hints

The Capt. Response to Literature test requires each student to read a short story. The student then has 40 minutes to write 4 essay responses to 4 different prompts. Use the hints below to answer each of the prompts.

1. **Initial Understanding**

- ❖ Briefly summarize what happens during the story
- ❖ Write down any thoughts or questions you have about the story
- ❖ Why does the story have the title it has? Is it a good title? Does the title make sense?
- ❖ Did you like or dislike the characters? Be specific.

2. **Developing and Interpretation**

- ❖ Identify and describe the main character (protagonist) of the story. What job does the person have? How old are they? Where do they live? What kind of family do they have? Only use information that you find in the story.
- ❖ How does the main character change from the beginning of the story to the end?
- ❖ Characters change because of the conflict in the story. What conflict happens during the story that causes the main character to change?

3. **Connections**

- ❖ How does the story remind you of people you have known or experiences that you have had, seen, or read about?
- ❖ Choose 3 connections from other books, movies, t.v., or real life and use those connections to help explain your story. Connections can be setting, plot events, themes, or characters.
- ❖ Explain why your connection is similar to something in the story.

4. **Critical Stance**

- ❖ Was this a good piece of literature?
- ❖ Pick 2 things that made the story good, in your opinion.
- ❖ Explain why these things made the story good.
- ❖ Give examples of each
- ❖ Pick 1 thing you thought could've been better in the story.
- ❖ Explain why it could've been better.
- ❖ Give an example