

## Summer Reading

### Reading Response Journal

A Reading Response Journal is a notebook in which you write about your reading. In it you communicate thoughts and feelings about the novel that you are reading. The journal is a window for the teacher to look through to see what you are thinking and what you know about the selection. There are no right or wrong answers for these, so take some intellectual risks and be honest. The key is to engage the text!

While reading, maintain a response journal in which you react to key scenes, quotations or themes in the work. To any active reader, certain scenes stand out as significant or particularly powerful. Certain quotations or style choices might jump off the page and stick in your mind. In your journal entries, discuss issues such as theme, character, tone, voice, imagery, figurative language, setting and historical, social or political context. Consider your journal as your own conversation with the text. Try to think like your teacher might. What sorts of questions might you teacher ask if you were studying the work as a group? If you had the author sitting across from you as you read, what might you ask him?

What is the Success Criteria for this assignment? (Requirements)

You should:

1. Each of your journal entries should be anywhere from one half to a full page of writing that is a minimum of 2 paragraphs. ( Remember, paragraphs are indented.)
2. Date each entry and include page numbers read.
3. Write, on average, a page, although the length may vary.
4. Produce an entry for every 10-15 pages read written entries. (The number of entries will vary depending on the number of pages in the book.)
5. Use the provided sentence starters to begin each entry. (You may not repeat sentence starters.)

What do students write about in a reading response journal? ( Additional sentence starters are included.)

- Make predictions about what will occur next.
- Write from the main character's perspective.
- Agree or disagree with the theme or the tone of the novel.
- Show a personal reaction to the story.
- Describe the main character or any character's personality.
- Comment on how a character has changed.
- Relate the novel to your personal life.
- Explain why you liked or disliked the novel. (Use at least three literary terms in your answer).
- Finally, feel free to write anything about the novel that you feel strongly about.

Your responses do not need to be particularly formal as your responses should be reflective of your developing thinking. Please write in paragraphs rather than bulleted lists, however. **Please do not write plot summaries!!** Just remember that these are not about plot summary but about what you think and feel as you read. Just give enough plot summary to make clear what you are writing about. Finally, be comprehensive in your journal. Do not simply respond to one particular part of the book. Reveal your engagement of the works from beginning to end.

## Reading Response Journal

	4 (10 points)	3 (8 points)	2 (6 points)	1 (4 points)
Content	All entries are ½ to 1 page and 2 paragraphs. Number of entries is based on book length. No prompts are repeated.	7-10 entries of ½ page and 2 paragraphs present. Most of the prompts are included.	Fewer than 7 entries present. Some are less than 2 paragraphs. Fewer than 5 prompts included.	Fewer than 5 entries are present. Entries are less than ½ page and/or 2 paragraphs. Entries do not address the prompts.
Mechanics	The journal entries reflect evident control of grammar, spelling, and sentence formation. All written responses are grammatically correct.	The journal entries reflect sufficient control of grammar, spelling, and sentence formation. Few grammatical errors are present in written responses that do not interfere with reading.	The journal entries reflect limited control of grammar, spelling, and sentence formation. Confused and inconsistent arrangement of sentences and fragments interferes with reading.	The journal entries reflect minimal control of grammar, spelling, and sentence formation. Entries are difficult to read.
Presentation	The journal entries reflect careful attention to detail and effort. They are neat and well organized.	The journal entries reflect some attention to detail and effort. Small improvements are needed in neatness and organization.	The journal entries reflect minimal effort. Neatness and organization need improvement.	The journal entries reflect poor organization and are very confusing. They appear rushed and are not neat.
Knowledge/Ideas	The journal entries reflect thorough understanding of complex ideas and concepts in the book.	The journal entries reflect thoughtful analysis of the book beyond just the recall of facts.	The journal entries reflect basic knowledge about and/or limited understanding of the book.	Entries are only summaries of the book. The journal entries reflect limited comprehension of the book; there is little evidence that the book was even read.