

Reader Response Journal Prompts

For each Journal entry, please make sure to write the day's date in the upper, right hand corner of the page. On the top line of the page, please write the title of the book as well as the most recent page read. On the first line down, please **COPY (word-for-word) the journal prompt** to which you are responding. Skip a line and begin your response (minimum of half a page long—pictures and diagrams do not count toward this length) to the prompt.

	Title of Book page #	date
	Copy the entire prompt	
	Begin your half-page response.	

MAKE SURE TO WRITE ABOUT EVENTS FROM THE STORY THAT SUPPORT YOUR RESPONSE TO EACH PROMPT.

Story Elements

1. Explore how the main character changed (especially in thinking or feeling about or toward someone/something) throughout the story. Make sure to write about the character before the change, what happened to cause the change, and the character after the change?
2. Write a letter to a character in the book or a letter from one character to another.
3. Compare & contrast two characters in the book by describing their similarities and their differences.
4. Compare a character in your book to a character in another book you have read.
5. Write a diary entry in the voice of a character in your book.
6. Describe an interesting or important character in your book. Make sure to include events in which the character was involved.
7. Write about something that happened in the story that surprised you or that you found interesting.
8. Write about your favorite part of the book, explaining why it's your favorite and why it was important to the story.
9. Tell your thoughts or feelings about the theme of the story. (Make sure to include the theme and the events that help developed it.)
10. Describe places where the author gives good descriptions of the characters, setting, problem, or solution. How did the author do this? (wording, figurative language, sentence structure, etc.)

Recall

1. Describe in details the setting (time and place/surroundings) of your book and how it fits into the story.
2. List three character traits that describe the book's main character. Write about the events from the book that made you choose those traits.
3. Summarize the chapter you just read.
4. Retell the ending of the story AND write your feelings about it. [Only if you've finished reading the entire novel.]
5. List five facts you learned about the topic covered in the book or article. [nonfiction, auto/biography, historical fiction]

Prediction

1. Based on the title *and* the first chapter, what do you think the book is about?
2. Who do you think the culprit is? Why?
3. Describe what you think will happen next. Why do you think as you do?
4. Which character do you think will change the most by the end? Why?
5. How do you think the main conflict will be resolved? [Make sure you explain what the conflict is.]
6. Write your predictions about the story from when you started reading and tell whether or not they were right. [after finishing the book]
7. How do you think the story will end? Why do you think as you do?

Connections

1. What were your feelings after reading the first chapter?
2. What advice would you give a character in this book? Why?
3. What character would you most like to be? Why?
4. Describe a character's personality trait that you'd like to possess. Why do you like this trait?
5. Explain how any aspect of the book (character, setting, conflict, plot, etc.) reminds you of yourself, people you know, or of something that happened in your life.
6. How have you changed your way of thinking/feeling about anything after reading this book? Explain.

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Opinion

1. Why do you think the author chose the opening line he or she did? Did you like it? Why/why not? Did it make you want to read further?
2. Who is your favorite character? Why? If you would like, draw a picture of this character.
3. What do you think of the antagonist's actions? Are they right or wrong?
4. What do you think is the most important scene/event in the book so far? Why?
5. How would a different setting affect the story? [Makes sure to describe the present setting as well as a "different" setting.]
6. Was the cover design effective? Did it make you want to read the book? Explain. [If you would like, create a new cover design for this book.]
7. Did you like the ending of the book? How would you have liked it to end? Rewrite a new ending for the book.
8. Write a question you would like to ask the author. How do you think he or she would respond?
9. Do you agree with the point (life lesson) the author is making? Why?
10. Do you like the ending of this book? Why or why not? Do you think there is more to tell?

Language

1. Copy a sentence from the book that you think is well written. Why do you like this sentence?
2. Find examples of figurative language (simile, metaphor, personification, alliteration, idiom, hyperbole, cliché, allusion, etc.) in the text. Write them down, label each by type of figurative language, and explain what the author means by each sentence.
3. Write down any allusions found in the reading. Explain how each helps the reader's understanding or message the author is trying to convey.
4. Describe the author's craft: What was good about the author's writing? What things might you try to do in your own writing that you learned from this author?
5. Describe how the author makes you *feel* through their writing. What about it makes you feel this way?

Evaluation (after finishing the book)

1. Did you enjoy the book? Why or why not?
2. Was the book hard or easy to read? Why?
3. What surprised you in the text?
4. Would you like to read more books by this author? Why or why not?
5. Do you think the author chose a good title for the book? Why or why not?
6. What did you learn about the time in which the story took place?
7. Write about an important life lesson that was learned in the story.
8. Describe parts of the book that puzzled you or made you ask questions.
9. Explain why you think that your book is popular with students in the class (if it is popular with other readers in the class).
10. Would you recommend the book to another reader? Explain why or why not.
11. Describe what you would change about the book if you could rewrite it.
12. Explain what you want to remember about this book and why.
13. Make a list of "lingering questions" you have after finishing the book.
14. Make a list of things you don't understand, find confusing, or have questions about.

Nonfiction, Auto/Biography, Historical Fiction

1. List five facts you learned about the topic covered in the book or article.
2. What surprised you in this book?
3. What changed, challenged, or confirmed what you already knew?
4. Would you read another book by this author or about this subject matter? Why/why not?

*Remember: If the assigned prompt/prompt choices don't work for where you are in your book, please write a note to me about why it doesn't work and why one you choose would work better for where you are in the story. Please write this note *after* you copy the prompt of your choice, before you begin writing the response for it.

Reader Response Journal Prompts

Students need to write each entry so that they answer the prompt fully. This includes using details/events from the story that support the thoughts/opinions written by the student.

Reader Response Journal Rubric (10 points per entry)			
-2 points	no BSF turned in for the book written about	-1 point	between 75%-99% of reading completed for the week
-1 point each	missing/incorrect prompt, title of book (underlined), date	-2 points	between 50%-74% of reading completed for the week
-1 point	each line less than 12 lines	-3 points	between 25%-49% of reading completed for the week
- ≤5 points	for not using detail from the book to help explain/prove response	-4 points	less than 25% of reading completed for the week

Due dates: 6th grade—Thursday; 7th grade—Wednesday; 8th grade—Tuesday