

Reading Journal Guidelines

Write a 1-2-page reading journal (handwritten single-spaced) focusing on your thoughts and responses to a book of your choice. Don't be overly concerned with grammar, but do put a lot of thinking into your reading journals since they will be key to fruitful discussions in class. Here is some information on how to format these reading journals and ideas for your entries.

Reading Journal Format

Use a composition notebook or regular notebook as your journal and include the following information at the top of each numbered reading journal:

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| Your name: 1 st and Last English Language Arts – Grade # Date_____ | Title of book/story/article/poem Author's name Chapters and/or page numbers |
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Suggested Ideas for Reading Journals

1. Choose a quote(s) from the reading and comment on its meaning, significance, and/or impact on you as a reader. Be sure to indicate the page number of the quotes(s).
2. Comment on ideas, characters, or events in the reading that particularly caused you to reflect on your life and experiences.
3. Pinpoint significant issues/themes that have surfaced in your reading; comment on them.
4. Comment on one or more of the characters that you've encountered in the reading. For example, what did you think of them? What did you think of their relationship with others? How do they change/grow/develop? Why are they significant?
5. Write about what the reading has revealed or taught you.
6. Write a letter to one of the characters about an issue, problem, or situation that has surfaced within the reading.
7. Respond to the reading with your own interpretation, such as a poem, essay, or short story. Then provide a brief 1 to 2-paragraph explanation of how your literary work represents your understanding of the reading.
8. Pretend that you are one of the characters, and write a "Dear Diary" entry related to an occurrence, issue, or conflict within the reading.
9. On a blank sheet of unlined paper, sketch/draw a concept, character, or scene from your reading. Then include a 1-page written explanation of how that sketch/drawing represents your understanding of the reading.
10. Briefly summarize the reading selection and comment freely on what you have just read.

You can also create your own journal entry! Please consult with me first to discuss your ideas.