

Responding in your Reader Response Journal

Dear Students,

This year you will be writing to me and to each other about books, reading, writers, and writing. This will give us a chance to share our thoughts, feelings, reactions, and questions about the ideas, actions, characters, settings, plot, themes, and other elements in books. You can't be wrong in your responses! Let me hear your voice.

- *Read 20 minutes Monday-Wednesday. This equals 1 hour per week*
- *Write in your response journal once each week. Your due date each week is Thursday.*
- *The heading on the entry will include: **your name, section #, and the number of the prompt** you chose for this week, and the **number of pages** you read this week.*
- *Your entry must include the title of book, author and follow the prompt you chose.*
- *Each entry should be 2 pages long: one sheet of paper back and front. **SKIP LINES!***
- *Below is a list of prompts, questions, and suggested responses from which to choose.*

Happy Reading,

Mrs. Wall

To be sure that you are responding and thinking about your reading in many different ways, you may only use each prompt once. Cross out the number once you've responded.

These prompts work great when responding to fiction text:

1. I really don't understand the part when...
2. I really like/dislike this idea because...
3. This character reminds me of somebody I know because...
4. This character reminds me of myself because...
5. This character is like (name of character) in (title of book) because...
6. I think this setting is important because...
7. This scene reminds me of a similar scene in (title of book) because...
8. This part is very realistic/unrealistic because....
9. I think the relationship between _____ and _____ is interesting because...
10. This section makes me think about _____, because...
11. I like/dislike (name of character) because...
12. This situation reminds me of a similar situation in my own life. It happened when...
13. The character I most admire is _____ because...
14. If I were (name of character) at this point, I would...
15. I wish _____ had happened...
16. My opinion of (name of character) is...

17. As I read, I felt...
18. A prediction I have for what may happen next is _____. I think these things will happen because...(What details in the section support your prediction?)
19. I began to think of...
20. I love the way...
21. I can't believe...
22. I think....
23. I wonder why...
24. I was furious when...
25. I'm not sure about...
26. My favorite character is _____ because...(tell why)
27. I like the way the author...
28. I felt sad when...
29. I wish that...
30. _____ made me think of...
31. This story teaches...
32. I began to think of...
33. My favorite part of the book...
34. The most important thing I learned about _____ is...
35. Something I would still like to know about _____ is...
36. If I could be one of the characters in this story, it would be _____ because...
37. If I could talk to the author of this book, I would tell him/her...
38. I chose to read this book because...

Questions to consider...

39. What were your feelings after reading the opening chapter of this book?
40. Did this book make you laugh? cry? cringe? smile? cheer? Explain.
41. Do you like the ending of the book? Why or why not? Do you think there is more to tell?
42. What do you think might happen next?
43. What came as a surprise in the book? Why?
44. What parts of the book seem most believable or unbelievable? Why?
45. What point of view is your book written in? How do you know? Give specific examples from the text.
46. In what ways are you like any of the characters? Explain.
47. Do any of the characters remind you of friends, family members, or classmates? Explain.

48. Which character would you like to be in this book? Why?
49. What would you and your favorite character talk about in a conversation? Begin the conversation.
50. What do you think happened in the main character's life right before the story started? (Prequel to the story)
51. Do you think the title fits the book? Why or why not?
52. Does the title of the book have more than one meaning? If so, describe the different meanings.
53. Make a text to world connection to something in this book. Explain it using details from the text and the world event.
54. What do you think will happen next?
55. How would the story be different if it was told...(choose ONLY one)
 - a. From a different character's point of view?
 - b. From a narrator?
 - c. In a different time period?
56. What type of reader would enjoy this book and why?
57. If the book were set 50 years in the future or the past, how would the conflict change?
58. If you could be related to a character, who would it be and why?
59. If you could step into the book, what's the first thing you would do?
60. If you were making this book into a movie, what part(s) would you cut out or change? Why?

Great for non-fiction (but may work for fiction also)

61. I wonder what this means...
62. I noticed...
63. I like/dislike this author's writing because....
64. I wish the author had included....
65. My opinion of the illustrations, table, and figures is...
66. When I don't know a word I...
67. I was surprised...
68. It seems like...
69. Questions I have after reading are...
70. Something I learned from my reading...
71. I'm not sure....
72. One of the illustrations was _____ because...
73. Describe any text features the author used and how they affected your reading experience.
74. Has the book helped you in any way? Explain.

75. How have you changed after reading this book? Explain
76. Describe how the author captured your interest or pulled you into the book.
77. Describe new insights or understandings you have after reading the book.
78. What questions in this book would you like answered?
79. What connections are there between the book and your life? Explain.
80. What is the most important sentence/paragraph/passage in this book? The most important event or feeling? Explain.
81. Who should or shouldn't read this book? Why?
82. What is the best part of the book? Why? What is the worst part? Why?
83. What was the author's purpose for writing this book?
84. List some 5 possible titles for this book. Tell why you suggested each one.
85. Who do you know that would like to read this book? Explain why they would like it.
86. List 2-5 words you don't know. Look them up and tell what they mean? Why do you think the author chose them?
87. What makes you wonder in this book? What confuses you?

Alternate Responses (For fiction and non-fiction)

88. Write an "book infomercial" to convince or persuade others to read this book.
89. Write a poem about your book.
90. Create a slogan for the book and explain why you chose it.
91. Write a practical and doable solution for a problem the character has that is different from anything suggested in the book. (include the problem and the solution)
92. Explain why the author should write a sequel to this book and what should happen in the sequel.
93. Give 3 reasons the book should be taught to the class. Support your reasons.
94. Create a theme song with lyrics for the book.
95. Write a letter to the author of the book.
96. Choose a character and describe what birthday presents would be appropriate for that character. Tell why.
97. Write a letter to a character in the story.
98. Make a comic strip of the story (minimum of 6 colored frames that take up the 2 pages).
99. Make a list of characters in your book, and identify famous actors that would play their role if you were making a movie of the book.
100. Make an illustrated timeline of the major events in the book. (Minimum of 6 events. Color and label)
101. List 10 interesting and big words from your book and ...
 - a. tell why each word is interesting,
 - b. write a definition for each word,
 - c. use it in a sentence of your own.
102. Create an award for this book. Explain why it should receive it.
103. Write your own prompt and answer it completely.
104. Pretend you are in charge of getting a person or persons to read this book aloud for an audio book. Tell who should it be and explain why you choose them.