Reader Response Journal/Blog Prompts

Each week, choose one of the following prompts to guide you in responding to and analyzing your independent reading. As a general rule, your response should be at least 250 words, or you probably aren’t going into enough detail or using enough evidence to support your ideas. If you’re hand-writing your entries, one page front and back is reasonable. Be sure to answer all parts of the prompt, and be mindful of your writing conventions (spelling, punctuation, capitalization, etc.).

Begin all entries with the title and the author of the book you are reading.

**RL.7. 1 Use specific examples from the text to make text to self/text/world connections.**

* Did the setting or any of the characters remind you of people or places in your own life? How were they alike and how were they different?
* Do you feel sympathy for any characters in the story? Why do you feel this way? Does this character remind you of anyone in your life?
* Do you dislike any characters in the story? What makes you dislike this character? Does this character remind you of anyone in your life?
* Which character do you most identify with in the story? What things do you have in common? What things are different?
* Pick one character and explain why you would/would not like to have him/her as a friend.
* Describe and explain why you would/would not like to have lived in the time or place of the story.
* What real-life people or events are you reminded of by characters or events in the story? Explain why.
* Write about what would happen if you brought one of your characters to school or home for a day. Explain how your character’s actions were imagined using support from the text.
* Pick a scene in which you disagreed how a character handled a situation/person and rewrite it in the way you think it should have happened.
* What quality of which character strikes you as a good characteristic to develop within yourself over the years? Why? How does the character demonstrate this quality?
* What are your hopes and dreams for the each of the important characters in the story?
* If you could ask any character a question, what would you ask? If you could ask the author a question, what might that be? Explain why you chose these questions and what you predict the answers might be.
* Does this story or its characters remind you of another story you have read? Does it remind you of a movie? How are they alike? And how are they different?

**RL.7.2 Provide an objective summary of the text.**

* Write a summary of what you read in your book today. Be sure to include the most important elements or events in your reading.
* If you’re reading a non-fiction text, explain the basic information that is being presented in terms of the 5W's: Who? What? When? Where? Why?
* Create a comic strip or graphic novel page that summarizes what you’ve read. Be sure to include accurate setting and character using support from your text. Write a short paragraph explaining your graphic choices.
* If you are reading a non-fiction text, explain some of the things that you have learned from the text so far that you are not likely to forget in the near future. What made these facts memorable?

**RL.7.2 Determine and analyze the theme or central idea of the text.**

* What message do you think the author is trying to convey? How does he or she get the message across?
* Is the theme the author is trying to convey a universal theme (meaning it applies to anyone, anywhere at anytime), or is it only useful in specific settings or situations? Explain your answer.

**RL.7.6 Analyze how an author develops and contrasts the points of view of different characters or narrators in a text.**

* Describe the same event in the text from the perspective of two different people in the book. If you’d like, use illustration to convey this perspective further.
* Who tells the story? Is this the best person to tell it? Why? How would the story be different if told through another character's eyes?

**RL.7.3 Analyze how particular elements of a story or drama interact.**

* How did a character in the story solve a problem? What personality traits do you think allowed the character to reach this resolution?
* If you could change the life of a character in the story, which would it be? What changes would you make? Why would you make these changes?
* Did you hope for a different ending? Write a letter to the author suggesting an alternate ending?
* Choose a character that has had an impact on others in the story. How do the character’s actions affect other people in the story? How might the story have been different if the character had made different choices?
* Which characters have changed over the course of the story? What evidence from the text suggests that these characters have changed?
* Explain a character's problem and then offer your character advice on how to solve his/her problem.
* Explain how a character is acting and why you think the character is acting that way.
* If you are reading a non-fiction text, what ideas might you have for turning this work of nonfiction into a work of fiction? Give a brief summary of what your story might be like focusing on how the elements of non-fiction could be used in a fictional story.

**RL.7.1 Share your questions, predictions and reactions.**

* What questions do you have about the story before you read today? As you read and find answers in the text, write about them in your journal. What answers do you predict for those questions that weren’t answered in the text? What makes you think these answers might be correct?
* What did you learn today as you read that you did not know before? What surprised you? Explain why it surprised you?
* From what you've read so far, make predictions about what will happen next and explain what in the text makes you think it will happen.
* Copy an interesting/confusing/important/enjoyable passage and explain why you chose it.

**RL.7.6 Analyze other elements of the author’s craft.**

* How does the author provide information or details to make the story seem realistic?
* How does the author help you feel that you are really there? Be sure to share specific examples from the text.

**Tips for Developing Writers:**

You are encouraged to use one the following sentence starters to begin your response entries:

* This week, I have been reading \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* The book I’ve been reading this week is \_\_\_\_\_. It was written by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Next, take the prompt you have selected and move the words around to form your topic sentence.

**Example:** If you are trying to respond to this prompt—What message do you think the author is trying to convey? How does he or she get the message across?—you might start with one of these sentence starters:

* The message the author is trying to convey in this novel is…
* In this novel, the author’s message is…
* I think the author is trying to convey the message…

Because this response has two parts, you would want to make sure you answer both, so when you’re finished with the first part, move to the next part like this:

* He/She gets the message across by…
* The author delivers this message through…