

Reading Lab Response Guide

For every Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday that this class meets, you will need to write a journal which reflects your reading for that day. These need to be insightful responses which will demonstrate your thinking. I will give no credit if you only summarize the plot. Please use these journal response starters and questions to keep your writing focused. You are expected to explore a majority of these; do not repeat the same question more than once for any book.

Sentence starters: Please copy and continue.

1. I wonder what this means...
2. I really don't understand this part because...
3. I really like/dislike this idea because...
4. This character reminds me of someone I know because...
5. This character reminds me of myself because...
6. This character reminds me of the character (name of character) in (title of book) because...
7. I think this setting is important because...
8. This scene reminds me of a similar scene in (title of work) because...
9. This part is very realistic/unrealistic because...
10. I like/dislike this writing because...
11. Today's reading makes me think about _____ because...
12. This section is particularly effective because...
13. I think the relationship between _____ and _____ is interesting because...
14. I like/dislike _____ because...
15. *I predict _____ because...
16. This situation reminds me of a similar situation in my own life. It happened when...
17. The character I most admire is _____ because...
18. If I were (name of character) at this point, I would...
19. (Name of character) has changed/grown in this novel in this way...
20. The plot holds my interest because...
21. When I read about _____, I felt _____ because...
22. One quality of (name of character) which I really admire is _____ because...
23. This situation is like a situation in real life because...
24. The thing I liked best about this book was...
25. This book made me want to read more about _____ because...

Reflective Journal questions: Provide a topic sentence that indicates which response you chose.

1. Do you think you will enjoy this book? Why/why not?
2. Are the characters realistic/believable? Explain.
3. Explain why the plot does/does not hold your interest.
4. React to the author's style of writing—*i.e.* dialogue, description, foreshadowing, structure, etc.
5. I had a difficult time keeping my mind on reading today because... (You must not only share, if you choose, what's on your mind, but you must also include why the book was unable to keep you focused.)
6. Explain why you agree/disagree with a character's thinking or actions in today's reading.
7. Write a New Year's Resolution for four characters and explain your choices.
8. Describe the imagery that is present in the writing. Do you believe this is the author's intention?
9. I am reminded of a particular piece of music (name) when I read this book because...
10. Write down your first impression of character _____. At this point, what do you think of this person?
11. Create a list of things that confuse you while reading this story. Either complain about them or list questions for which you need answers.
12. Describe your mental picture of one of the characters in the story. What led you to this image?
13. Copy a sentence, phrase, or paragraph that you wish you had written. Explain why this speaks to your beliefs or expresses your feelings.
14. Describe a typical day in the life of character X before X event happened and after X event happened.
15. Describe what you believe may have taken place before the story begins to shape character X's personality into the one he/she has today.
16. Create a dream that a character had the night before event X happened. Why did you choose this dream?
17. What do you think happened before this story began? What hints do you get from the story to lead you to this conclusion?
18. How would this story be different if ... (response to at least three)
 - a. the main character was the opposite sex?
 - b. X event did not happen?
 - c. character X was removed from scene X?
 - d. the setting were different?
 - e. the narration was in first person? (or third if it's in first)
19. As a reader, what do you know about the character that he/she doesn't seem to know about him/herself?
20. What do you think motivates the character to behave as he/she does?
21. Based on this book, what do you think the values and beliefs of this author would be?
22. Would you choose this book for your children to read? Why/why not?
23. Explain why this book would/would not make your all-time, top ten best reads.
24. Place a character 100 years in the past or 100 years in the future. Knowing this character as you do, describe what you think his/her reactions and beliefs would be in the new environment.
25. Which character would have the hardest time adjusting to life in Vermillion? Why?