

Reading Responses

Choose one (1) of the following responses and write a one (1) full page response in your reading notebook.

Be sure to write the title, author and Reading Response # for EVERY response.

There are plenty of questions from which to choose!

General Questions for Novels

1. Before you started reading this book/story, what hints did the title give you as to what this book was going to be about?
2. Before reading this book/story today, what were your predictions about the characters or the plot?
3. What kinds of things should someone know about before trying to read your book, so that he/she will understand it better?
4. While you were reading today, what did you picture in your mind about the story?
5. Which character can you connect with the most in your book?
6. Which part of your book are you having the most difficulty understanding or connecting with?
7. What have you done that is similar to what the characters experience in your book?
8. What ideas do you have about the problem in your book?
9. What issue in your book has caused you to think the most?
10. What kind of message does the author want the reader to get from this book/story?
11. What issue in your book is the most interesting? Upsetting? Familiar? Ridiculous? Confusing?
12. How does the setting of your book contribute to the mood of the story?
13. What are the problems the main character faces and how are they solved?
14. How do two of the characters in your book differ from each other?
15. Which part of the story caused the most intense feelings in you?
16. How do the minor characters affect the main character?
 17. What is the conflict the characters in your book experience and what are you learning about them through this conflict?
 18. How has this story changed your thinking?
 19. How has this story supported your thinking? While you were reading today, who did the characters remind you of and why?
 21. What events and people cause the main character to change?
 22. What motivates the main character's decisions?
 23. How realistic is the plot of your book?
 24. How does the title relate to the story?
 25. What historical event is mentioned in your book and why?

26. How did the author make the characters believable?
27. Which character would you like to have as a friend and why?
28. Why do you think the author wrote this book/story?
29. How do the details that the author uses affect you, as the reader?
30. How does the part that you read today fit together with the parts that you read earlier?
31. What decision has a character made in your book that you totally disagree with?
32. What keeps going through your head about this book?
33. What do you think will happen in the next section you read?
34. Which character in your book are you the least similar to and why?
35. What have you learned in your book that will be helpful to you in another class or at another time?
36. How would you solve the problem that the main character has?
37. How does this book compare to another by the same author?
38. Which character has gone through the biggest change in your book and why?
39. If you could "jump" into your book right now, what would you do in the story and why?
40. Which part of your book would you like to go back to and re-read? Why?
41. What has been the most difficult part of this book and why do you think that is so?
42. Who would have the most difficulty understanding this book and why?
43. How has the author's style or language appealed to you?
44. What ideas have you gotten from this book for a story of your own?

45. What kind of people should read this book and why?
46. What information or knowledge did you already have that helped you to understand this book better?
47. Which part of what you read today were you able to visualize the best and why?
48. What personal event in your life does this book remind you of and why?
49. What strategy did you use while you were reading today to help clear up any confusion you were having?
50. What other events, people, or situations has this book caused you to think about and why?

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Questions for Biography and Historical Fiction

1. Why is this person famous?
2. Discuss three to four personality traits that helped make this person achieve his or her goal.
3. What are two to three problems this person had to overcome?
4. What about this person do you feel enabled him or her to realize personal hopes and dreams?
5. Were there people and/or events that helped this person realize his or her dream? Select two and show how each influenced the person.
6. What do you admire or dislike about this person? Explain your position.
7. How are you and this person alike? Different? Give specific examples.
8. How did this person affect the lives of other people during his or her time? During our time?
9. What clues did you use to determine the time and place of this book?
10. What does the book teach you about family life and relationships between family members?
11. What does this book teach you about the role of men and women during these times?
12. What kinds of struggles and problems did the main character face? List three and explain how the main character dealt with and solved each one. If there was no solution, explain why you think the problem couldn't be solved.
13. Would you enjoy living during the time of this book? Explain why or why not.
14. What problems, conflicts does the main character face that you deal with in your life?
15. How do the main character's problems differ from yours?
16. How do people cope with economic problems such as scarcity of food? Money? Jobs?
17. How are minorities portrayed? Are they stereotyped? Offer examples.

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Questions for Fantasy and Science Fiction

1. What are the settings? Explain the elements of fantasy that you see in the setting.
2. How does the author enable you, the reader, to enter the fantasy world? Are there realistic elements? Discuss some of these and how they affect the story.
3. How do trips to other times and worlds help the characters cope with the present time?
4. Is there a struggle between forces of light and dark? Who wins? Offer support for the victory?
5. What special powers does the hero possess? For what purposes does he or she use these powers?
6. What does the hero learn about himself/ herself? About life?
7. What personality traits do you have in common with the hero? Discuss two of these.
8. How do ideas and themes in this book connect to other fantasy books you've read?
9. Does the story deal with values and themes about death? Explain.
10. How has this book changed your thinking?
11. What scientific advances do you see in the society? How do these adventures in technology affect the characters' decisions and actions?
12. Are problems characters face in the story similar to or different from those people face today? Explain with examples.
13. Does the author deal with present-day issues such as population, food supplies, ecology, technological advances? Compare the author's views to your own.
14. Does the story offer hope for humanity or is it a warning? Explain your conclusion.
15. How do people fit into this futuristic society? Are they subordinate to machines? Has democracy vanished? See if you can identify the changes and offer reasons for each one.
16. Would you like to live in this society? Are there advantages and disadvantages? Offer reasons from the text for your decisions.

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Questions for Realistic Fiction

1. What problems does the main character face? Do you feel these problems are realistic? Why? Why not?
2. What about the main character is realistic in terms of your experiences?
3. What problems and conflicts in this book are realistic?
4. What problems do you and the main character or a minor character have in common? Compare the way you deal with those problems to the way the character dealt with them.
5. What are the realistic themes and issues in the book? Do they have to do with growing up, peer pressure, friendships, family relationships, survival, divorce, stereotyping? Discuss two themes the book explored.

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Mystery

1. How does the author build suspense and excitement? Find two to three passages and discuss how the author accomplished this. Was it through description? Characters' thoughts and actions?
2. What is the mystery that must be solved? How does setting affect the mystery?
3. What are some clues that the author includes to lead you away from solving the mystery?
4. What traits does the main character possess that enables him or her to solve the mystery?
5. Why did the main character become involved in the mystery?
6. How does danger affect the decisions and actions of the main character/detective?
7. At what point in the book were you able to solve the mystery? Why could you do this?
8. What part did you consider the most suspenseful? Explain why.

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Nonfiction

1. Why did you select this book or article?
2. What new information did you learn?
3. What questions did the book/ article raise but did not answer?
4. What did you learn from photographs? from charts and diagrams? from illustrations?
5. Did this book change you thinking on this topic? How?
6. Did the author weave opinions into facts? Can you find examples of each? Give several examples of facts from the book/article, and give several examples of opinions from the book/article.