

A Menu of Reading Response Activities

You should complete a reading journal entry every Monday. You should spend 15-30 minutes reading before completing the journal entry. Make sure each journal entry contains the following: the date, title of the book, author, pages read and your menu choice. Check off your choice and choose a different option each week.

Choice 1: Make Music

Write a poem, song, or rap to describe a character, the setting, the problem, the plot, the solution, or the theme of the story.

Choice 2: Summarize

As you read, write a 2-3 sentences summary of each paragraph or chapter.

Choice 3: Visualize

Draw a picture of something amazing that the author described. Show how you picture that scene in your mind. Write a short description of the scene.

Choice 4: Text-to-Self Connection

Write a paragraph of how something or someone in the book relates to you and your life.

Choice 5: Prediction

Write a few sentences about a prediction of what you think will happen in the next story. Don't forget to use the word because to explain the reasoning behind your predictions. (Only predict in books you have not read.)

Choice 6: Question

Write 5 questions you have about the reading. Try to answer the questions as you read. Or, pretend you are a teacher. Write and answer 5 questions you think a teacher should ask.

Choice 7: I Prompts

Choose 3 I Prompts to answer.

I noticed

I discovered

I was surprised

I could understand

I couldn't understand

I agree

I disagree

I felt

I enjoyed

I liked

I didn't like

I would change

I would add

I wish

I would prefer

I expected

I didn't expect

I remembered

I had forgotten

I couldn't believe

I wasn't sure

I was scared

I thought it was funny

I was excited

I thought it was unusual

I thought it was interesting

I predict (next chapter)

Choice 8: Author

Complete a journal entry about the author. You can do research to learn about them. You can also answer one or more of the following questions in paragraph form:

Why do you think the author wrote this book?

What is the author trying to tell us?

What did the author have to know in order to write this book?

What did the author do to hook the reader in the beginning of the book?

What would you ask the author if he/she were here? Why?

Choice 9: Characters

Complete a journal entry about the main characters. Choose one of the following?

Write a one to two sentence description of each character. (Label as protagonist or antagonist.)

Do the characters seem "alive" and believable? Which ones? Why?

Do any characters change throughout the story? What helps them change?

Are any characters like others you have "met" in other books or in real life?

Which ones? Why?

Choice 10: Plot

Complete a journal entry about what happened in the story?

Sequence events in the story.

Were you able to predict the ending? How? Why or why not?

What was the most important part of the story? Why?

What other ways might the story have ended?

What is the main idea of the story? What was the author's message?

Choice 11: Setting

Answer all of the questions about the setting of the story in paragraph form.

Where and when does the story take place? How do you know?

Do you know a place like the one in the book? Where is it? Describe it.

Choice 12: Style of the Book (This may take you more than a week.)

How does the author keep you interested in the story? What special words or lovely language does the author use to keep you engaged in reading? Keep a running list of one or more of the following?

Strong Verbs

Alliteration

Vivid Adjectives

Similes/Metaphors

Robust Vocabulary

Onomatopoeia