**Reader Response Journal Instructions**

**Success Criteria:**

A reader response journal is your personal reaction to a text. The goal is to explore:

* Your **reaction** to the text
* Identify the **purpose** of the text
* Analyze any major themes, motifs, symbols, or character development from the text
* Critique and **evaluate the successfulness** of the text
* Discuss whether or not you agree with the **author’s position**
* Make **connections** with other texts or world events to justify your opinion.

While there is no “wrong answer” to a reader response, it is evaluated by the level of insight to the text that you demonstrate, and the justification of your position.

**Format:**

You do not need to write in expository paragraphs, as this is an informal response. However, the point, proof, explanation model is a strong means of **supporting your opinion**. Your journal should be **one page** in length **legibly** hand written (single spaced), or typed (MLA formatting).

Begin with a **brief summary** of the events you’re responding to. Be sure to include the **author**, the **title** of the text, the **author’s purpose** (or thesis).

Follow this with **your analysis**. Use properly cited **quotations or references** to the text where applicable.

End with a **personal connection.** Provide a personal anecdote or opinion to explain why you connect (or do not connect) with certain elements of the text.

Consider the **following prompts** to get you thinking, but do not attempt to address every one.

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| **Response Prompts:** Respond to one of the following questions if you don’t know what to write about  **a.** How do you **personally relate** to the text? Which characters or events do you most identify with? What does this suggest about your own character?  **b.** What is the **world-view** or **bias** that the author presents? What quotations show the author promoting this way of thought? Do you agree or disagree with the author’s position?  **c.**What did you **learn** from the text? Did it challenge or reinforce your opinions on a topic? What parts were most meaningful; or, why did it fail to communicate with you?  **d.** Do you agree with the author about **what’s important** to the world? Consider what is important to your family, community, ethnic group, social class, or faith. What parts do you agree or disagree with, and why?  **f.** What do you think the text’s worth is as a piece of **entertainment,** or a **work of art**? Do you think this belongs in the **Literary Canon** (the group of works deemed worthy of study by scholars)? Why?  **g.**Do you value this text? How would you rate it, and to whom would you **recommend** it (choose a specific target audience)? What are the **selling points** that appeal to your **target audience**? |

**Writing Tips:**

You should expect to revise your writing to attain the level of analysis and the academic style expected in this course. Move beyond the elementary school level of analysis (I like \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. ) Do not summarize the text extensively. Assume the reader has also read the text, so you can focus on your analysis of the text.

**Rubric:**

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| **Criteria** | **R** | **Level 1** | **Level 2** | **Level 3** | **Level 4** |
| **Reader’s**  **Response**  **Journal** |  |  |  | * Reading journals are complete and extensive detail is included * Each journal is 1 page in length, and well organized * Demonstrates considerable understanding of the novel * Applies critical thinking skills consistently and with exceptional degree of effectiveness * Examples and direct references are appropriately used to support opinions * Makes insightful connections between the text and self * Polished journal is free from grammatical and mechanical errors * Polished journals and citations are MLA formatted |  |