



## READER'S RESPONSE

A reader's response is your personal response to what you are reading. Instead of being directed by the teacher's questions, the reader writes down his / her own feelings, thoughts, reactions and questions about what they've read.

Here are some aspects of a novel that might be commented on:

**ideas**  
**actions**  
**situations**  
**characters**  
**settings**  
**plot**  
**theme**  
**author's use of language**  
**literary devices**  
**symbolism**

You *cannot be wrong* in your response so take risks and be honest.

- write about what you like or dislike
- what seems confusing or unusual to you
- tell what you think something means
- quote examples of the writing that you particularly like or dislike—discuss why you have that response
- make predictions about what will happen next—state why
- relate personal experiences which connect to the elements of the novel
- compare this work to other works you have read

Always include the **date, title, author** and the pages you have read.

Avoid plot summary (retelling the story)

**Defend your opinions—write the reasons for your conclusions**

Some suggestions for paragraph openers for reader's response

I wonder what ..... means

I really don't understand why.....

I really like / dislike.....

This.....reminds me of ..... because....

I would.....if I were.....,because....

The setting is important because....

This scene reminds me of a similar scene in.....because....

The part when.....is very realistic / unrealistic because.....

I think the author should have.....

It was really sad / happy / exciting / frightening when..... because.....

The character I most like / dislike / admire / distrust is .....

What I think will happen next is.....because.....

The best / worst part was when....

Other ideas

Write a note or letter to one of the characters.

Write about an experience you had that is similar to one described in the book

Write a dialogue between you and one of the characters

When you notice yourself reacting to the book, take a minute to jot down some notes that you can use as springboards to a Reader's Response