

What is a Response?

A reading response is NOT a retelling of a story, it is your REACTION to and THOUGHTS about a text.

A reading response is all about discovering the true meaning of a text. Your reading response should be something very personal to you. You need to talk about how the story makes you feel and what you think about it. You need to make connections (text-to-self, text-to-text, text-to-world) that helped you better understand the text. Any experience can be a connection. This includes:

- Places you've been
- People you know
- Experiences you have had
- Experiences of people you know
- Books you have read
- Music you've heard
- Movies or TV shows you've seen
- Anything that the text reminds you of

All authors use a variety of writing techniques to make their stories more meaningful. You need to think about what the author is trying to say and how they are saying it. There are many things writers use and you should mention literary techniques used in the story in your response. These are things like:

- Characterization
- Cliff-hangers
- Conflict
- Figurative Language (simile, metaphor, alliteration, personification, hyperbole, irony, etc.)
- Flashback
- Foreshadowing
- Imagery
- Setting/Atmosphere
- Symbolism
- Tone/Mood

Don't forget to explain your statements/opinions IN DETAIL. Include details from the book or your own experiences. Details from the book can include a "quote" from the text, or reference to an event.

You should be able to show the relationship between characters in the story, to identify and describe the conflict, describe how the author creates setting/atmosphere in the story,

explain why you would recommend the story to someone else, and identify how a character might feel.

Remember, a response is how YOU FEEL and what YOU THINK. Any understanding is correct as long as you can back up your ideas and statements with details from the story. It is not enough to say something about the story and not support it with proof.

Since a response is very personal, you should be including statements like:

- I feel...
- I noticed...
- The illustrations...
- I used to think...but now...
- The author wants people to know...
- I hope...
- I can relate to this because...
- This reminds me of...
- The character I most understand is...
- I wonder why...
- The big idea is...
- Now I want to know...
- I wonder if...
- Now I understand...
- I remember...
- It makes me think of...
- It's hard to believe...
- I especially like...
- In my mind I see...
- I think...
- The most important part was when...
- I like how the author uses...to show...
- Important words I noticed were...because...
- The author made me feel...by...
- A symbol I noticed was...
- While I was reading...
- I appreciated...
- I didn't like...