

Independent Reading Journal Prompts

Be sure to use textual evidence with explanation of 3-5 sentences for full credit.

Week 1 Journal Prompts (due A day 11/20, B day 11/21):

- How does your story open? What information does the author provide? Does it draw you in as a reader? Why or why not? Write a response that explains your answers.
- Who is your main character? What motivates him/her? Write a response that explains.
- Read several pages in your novel. What do you learn (or learn more about) your main character? Record some examples and/or short direct quotes that illustrate this and explain.
- Read a section of your novel. What questions do you ask as you read? What questions is the author asking about life or human nature? Record some as you read.
- Find a section in your novel, that you've already read (or continue reading for dialogue if needed), that has a significant amount of dialogue. Explain the context of the situation and then what you learn about the characters involved in the dialogue.

Week 2 Journal Prompts (due A day 11/30, B day 12/4 at beginning of class):

- What is the point of view of your novel? Is it effective? Why or why not? Write a response that explains your answers to these questions.
- Consider what would happen if the point of view of your novel changed. What would make the novel more interesting for you? For example, would you like the tale to be told through the eyes of a certain character? Reflect and respond.
- Are there things you wonder about as you read? Are there things you'd like to learn more about? Record them.
- Often when we read, something the author writes really speaks to us. Record some quotations from your book that are worth remembering.
- Reading can expose us to beautiful language. We get to see how author's play with words. Find some examples of sentences that you think are beautifully written and record them.

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Week 3 Journal Prompts (due A day 12/5, B day 12/6 by end of class):

- What is the setting of your novel? How does it affect the story? Is it a factor in how the tale unfolds? Write a response that explains your answers.
- Think about the style of writing in your novel. What evidence could you use to illustrate it?
- Imagery is an important part of any story as it helps the reader create pictures in his/her head. Find an example of imagery in your novel and record it.
- Read several pages in your novel. What do you learn (or learn more about) someone other than your main character? Record some examples and/or short direct quotes that illustrate this and explain.
- If you could be the psychiatrist for a character in the novel, what questions would you ask to get him/her to work on his or her issues or problems?

Week 4 Journal Prompts (due A day 12/11, B day 12/12 by end of class):

- What overall message do you believe your author is trying to send? What themes is s/he developing? Write a response that answers these questions.
- How does your author use one of the following to develop theme in your novel: change and growth in a character, conflicts, the title, repeated ideas or symbols, important moments in plot development?
- What is the overall tone of your novel? How does it affect the story. Write a response that answers these questions. Use direct quotes to illustrate.
- Read a few pages in your novel. What conflict(s) are evident in this section? How does the conflict in this section contribute to the plot or overall message of the story?
- Write a response to one of the quotes you recorded. Why did you choose it?