



How to Write a Journal Entry

All year you will be reading books of your choosing and journaling about them. Your journal entries in your spirals **MUST BE NEATLY WRITTEN** in **cursive** (using a pencil or blue or black pen) and **MUST BE SET EXACTLY** as follows:

Date: *(the day you will/have read for approximately 30 minutes)*

Full title: *(underline book title)*

Prediction: *(write this BEFORE you read; one complete sentence is fine)*

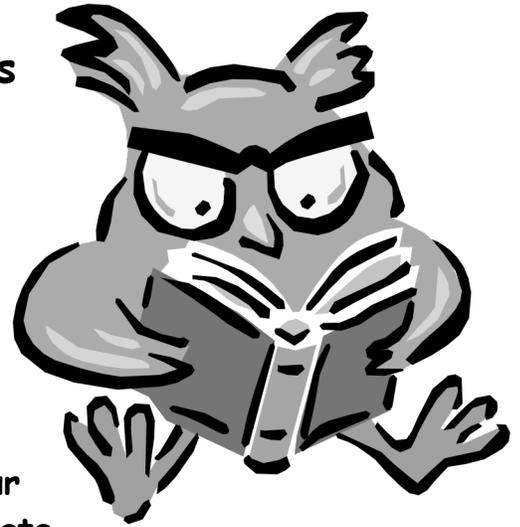
Pages: *(from what page to what page did you read; example, Pages 1 - 15)*

You must read **at least 15 pages** for a journal entry, unless you end a chapter after having read 10-14 pages. The end of a chapter is a good time to reflect and journal.

Summary: *(three (3) to five (5) sentences, no more; so be concise, summarizing whatever you read) Summaries capture main ideas and the most important details.*

Response: *(Choose one of the ways which you're going to respond to the book from the "Reading Journal Responses" sheet. **Minimum** three (3) to five (5) sentence response.) Restate the prompt as you begin your response and include the prompt number (1-5).*

Four (4) journal entries should be handed in every other Thursday, unless your teacher has told you differently. *(If you are sick during the week, you know when journals will be due. Reading is a good thing to do when recovering and relaxing in bed. We can talk about any extra time.)*



Reading Journal Responses

Use ONE of the following questions to share your response to the literature you have read. Indicate the number of the question you are answering and refer to the question in your response. Remember, each response must be at least three to five sentences in length. Use evidence and examples from the text and your own experiences to support what you say. Do not use the same response more than once during a two week period. You must respond to as many prompts as you can throughout the trimester.

Trimester One

1. Quote a sentence or thought from the book. What did you like about the quote? What makes it important to you?
2. How does this book make you think or feel? Does this book remind you of anything? What comes to mind?
3. Do you love/hate/can't stop reading this book? Explain why you feel this way.
4. What motivates the characters? What are the relationships between the characters?
5. How does this book compare or connect to other books you have read or movies you have seen?

Trimester Two

1. Copy an interesting or enjoyable passage. Comment on what it means to you and why it is important.
2. Can you connect the action in this book to personal experiences you have had? Do not use this if you cannot connect!
3. What confuses you? What don't you understand? Why do you think the author did something a particular way?
4. Explain why you think a character is acting as he or she is.
5. What makes it an effective piece of writing?

Trimester Three

1. From what you have read so far, what might one theme of the book be? What lesson(s) has a major character learned?
2. Quote a sentence or thought from the book. What did you like about the quote? What makes it important to you?
3. How does this book make you think or feel? Does this book remind you of anything? What comes to mind?
4. Explain why you would or would not like to have a particular character as a friend. What are the values of the character you like or dislike?
5. What real-life persons or events are you reminded of by characters or events in the story?

**When we read our novels and other specified literature you will be assigned another journaling format. Please be sure you keep this handout!

Note—I encourage you to write on both sides of the page in your spiral. Once you finish an entry, skip a line and begin a new one. Saving paper is a good thing.