

Reading Response Log

After you finish reading a chapter, you need to write an “entry” for the chapter. A completed entry is labeled with the book title, chapter number, pages read, and the date. The rest of the page includes a summary of the reading and your personal reaction to what you've read.

The summary should be about 5-10 sentences that highlight the most important events in the chapter. Make sure you use the character's names, not just “he” or “they”.

The personal reaction part explains your thoughts while you read. State your feelings, thoughts, reactions, and questions about situations, ideas, actions, characters, settings, symbols, plots, themes, and any other elements in the story. You can't be wrong in your responses, so take risks and be honest. Write about what you like and dislike, what seems confusing or unusual to you. Tell what you think something means. Make predictions about what might happen later. Relate your personal experiences that connect with the plot, characters, or setting.

The starters listed below are simply suggestions for you to use. After you read the selection, ask yourself these questions. Decide which ones would make the best entry for your response journal. You may certainly use other ideas of your own. Writing about your thoughts while reading will help you get the MOST from your book.

The reaction to the reading should be a good, solid paragraph with specific examples. You may need to choose several of the prompts below. The most important part of the reaction is explaining **WHY!**

Starters:

I wonder what this means

I really don't understand this part

I really like/dislike this idea because

This character reminds me of somebody I know because

This character reminds me of me because

This character is like (name of the character) in (title of book) because

I think this setting is important because

This scene reminds me of a similar scene in (title of book) because

I like/dislike this writing because

This part is very realistic/unrealistic because

I think the relationship between _____ and _____ is interesting because

I like/dislike (name of character) because

This situation reminds me of a similar situation in my own life. It happened when

The character I most admire is _____ because

If I were (name of character) at this point, I would

What you liked or disliked and why

What you wish had happened

What you wish the author had included

Your opinion of the characters

What you felt as you read

What you noticed when you read

Questions you have after reading

Sample Sentence Starters

I began to think

I love the way

I can't believe

I wonder why

I noticed

I think

I observed

I wonder

If I were

I'm not sure

I felt sad when

I like the way the author

I wish that

This made me think of

I was surprised

It seems like

I'm not sure

This story teaches

I began to think of

Example of a Reading Response Log Entry
(students do not have to type their work, but may if they wish)

Time Cat

Chapter 4 pages 25-34

September 13, 2006

Summary:

Jason and the magic cat, Gareth, arrive in Rome in the year 55 B.C. Two soldiers find them and wish to have Gareth be their army company's mascot because the company is called the Old Cats. Gareth liked the two soldiers, so he agreed. Jason learns how to camp with the soldiers, clean their shields and swords, and watch the soldiers drill and practice. Then the company sails to Britannica (Britain) to fight the Briton tribes. During the fight, Jason and Gareth are separated from the Roman army.

Reaction:

The two soldiers who found Jason and Gareth seem quite friendly and kind. My image of Roman soldiers is more brutal and mean. They seemed to be happy teaching Jason how to be a soldier and watching Gareth play. In one scene, Gareth explains to Jason the importance of the drill and practice. He states, "Practice is what makes the difference." I agree with Gareth, to be good at anything, a person has to practice constantly. I hated it when my mother always reminded me to practice the piano, but since I didn't practice, I never really got good at it and now I regret it. When the fighting begins, Jason walks through the middle of it. I think I would have found a quiet, hidden spot and stayed far away. I think Jason will be found by the Britons, maybe taken prisoner.