

Summer Reading Log Instructions

English 12 Honors

Mrs. Johnson

Reading a Work and Responding To It Actively

A careful, active reading enables you to understand and respond to questions about meaning and organization. Obviously, we must first follow the work and understand its details. At the same time we must respond to the words, get at the ideas, understand the implications of what is happening, and apply our own experiences to verify the accuracy and truth of the situation and incidents, to appreciate the characters and their solutions to the problems they face, and to articulate our own emotional responses. In short, as active, participating readers, we should assimilate the work into our minds and spirits.

(Literature: An Introduction to Reading and Writing, Second Edition. Englewood Cliffs, N.J.: Prentice Hall, 1989.)

For these novels, you will be required to complete a reader response log wherein you will read and respond actively to literature. Reading logs should be completed *as you read*. Briefly stated, your final product will be 8 responses/reading logs for each volume you are assigned.

The following 8 literary terms/items are required on both reading logs.

- 1. Theme** – the main idea or message of a literary work; *state a theme for the work using a complete, general statement (please avoid the internet—it's probably wrong).*
- 2. Setting** – the time and place of the story's action; *note any shifts in setting as well—especially because changes in setting are good indicators of theme/purpose.*
- 3. Writer's Intention** – what the writer intended to convey to the reader; *identify the writer's purpose; WHY did he/she write this book? What's the point? Who cares?*
- 4. Conflict(s)** – a struggle between two opposing forces; *identify the opposing forces and what conflicts them*
- 5. Point of View/Shifts** – the vantage point from which the story is told; *identify any shifts and how that changes the narrative. If the POV remains consistent, how does the POV limit/force/prejudice the reader?*
- 6. Mood/Shifts** – the feeling or atmosphere that the work gives off; *identify any shifts in mood—especially as it relates to the theme.*
- 7. Characterization Methods** – the method a writer uses to familiarize the reader with the characters in a work; *identify the methods of characterization the writer uses, including behavior, speech, physical description, thoughts and feelings, thoughts and feelings of other characters toward the main character*
- 8. Personal Connections** – *identify how the reading relates to your prior experience*

For each of the above items **provide evidence (text evidence; a quote – NOT “whole book” or “whole chapter”) with page number.** Then, **discuss the implications** of the use of this technique. How does it affect the reading? What is the impact of its use? **This is the analysis of the text.**

Use the template provided to create your own log. You MUST submit the log electronically.

All submissions will be entered into www.turnitin.com when you come back to school.

Reading Log Template:

1. **Identify the literary term/device you are using:** "Use an actual quote from the text of the book." (p.#) Your analysis that proves that the quote you used demonstrates the literary term/device you identified. This should be a SUBSTANTIVE response.

Examples:

2. **POV/Shifts:** "This is an actual quote taken directly from the text that shows POV or a shift in POV." (p.#) It is clear from the quote that Robert Walton and Victor Frankenstein are very similar. Showing how Victor feels about his scientific explorations really indicates that Robert may be making a bad choice in his own scientific explorations.
3. **Theme:** "This is an actual quote taken directly from the text that exemplifies one of the themes." (p.#) The concept of forbidden knowledge is displayed in this quote. Obviously Victor is being punished for his attempt to play with forces beyond his control.