

Summer Reading Journal

Albany High School

Summer 2012

Name _____

Grade entering _____

Dear Students,

Your summer reading journal is a place where you can reflect upon and draw meaning from what you read over the summer. It is place where you will

- think about author's craft (decisions the author made)
- make connections to yourself, the world, or other literature
- make predictions
- reflect upon yourself as a reader (strategies, strengths & struggles)
- record reactions, responses, and questions
- create questions to guide class discussions
- cite important passages and descriptions that stick with you
- record new, unusual, and unfamiliar language
- consider literary devices the author uses and how that impacts the author's message
- make connections between the theme and contemporary issues

Your summer reading journal will also serve as a place for you to demonstrate your willingness to read and thoughtfulness as a reader. ***This journal will be the first assignment you submit in the beginning of the school year in September and will be a portion of your first quarter grade.***

We hope that you have the opportunity to choose a book you want to read, and we hope that you enjoy your experience in that book! We will see you in September. Enjoy your summer!

Sincerely,
The ELA Department
Albany High School

"Literature is no one's private ground, literature is a common ground; let us trespass freely and fearlessly and find our own way for ourselves."

- Virginia Woolf

<http://albanyhighschoolsummerreading.weebly.com/index.html>

I. Journal

You will use the attached format to record and respond to your day-to-day reading. Below is a guide that you should follow.

Date _____

pages _____ - _____

In this section, you will record observations based on what you read. Below are some possibilities:

- Take notes on characters, events, etc.
- Make predictions
- Make connections (to self, other literature, world)
- Write what observations you made about the characters, setting, how the author uses detail and description, etc.
- Write questions you have about choices the author made, what happened, parts you don't understand, etc.
- Record your favorite parts – excerpts that make you laugh, provide a vivid picture, or are examples of good writing
- Record quotes a character says that you like, that impact you
- Write about issues and themes you see thus far in the book
- Record new/unusual language (words you don't know, etc.)

You may write about more than one of the topics listed in one entry. What you write about might be in list form (i.e.: if you're recording quotes or questions), but you need to balance that with writing in complete sentences as well.

This is not a place for plot summary, rather it is more of a place for you to analyze the writing and what the author did.

In this section, you will write a personal response to the reading. It is here where you might write about what the author did that you liked, or what you noticed about yourself as a reader. This section is a **personal reflection**.

****You need a minimum of 5 entries****

Please address each of the five bullets at some point in your entries.

TITLE _____

Date _____

Pages _____ - _____

Notes/Records of Reading:

Personal Response/Reflection:

II. Author Response:

When you finish reading your book, write about the author’s craft. What did the author do, what decisions did s/he make that worked for you? What did you like? What would you have changed?

- how s/he began the book (the lead)
- how s/he developed the characters from the beginning to the end
- how s/he used dialogue
- how s/he decided to format the book as a whole, the chapters, etc.
- the title s/he chose
- his/her use of language – detail and description overall

III. **Self Reflection:**

After your experience reading this novel, reflect upon yourself as a reader. Please address at least five of the nine bullets in your response.

- Was the reading difficult for you? Easy? Just right?
- How did you choose your book? Based on what criteria?
- Did you find parts of the book difficult? If so, what did you do?
- How did you approach the journal? How did you decide when to write an entry?
- Would you recommend this book? Why or why not?
- Did you notice any strategies you used as you read – skimming, scanning, vocabulary, etc.?
- Is this the first book you've ever read from cover to cover?
- Did you not read it cover to cover? Why not?
- What book do you plan to read next?
