

Different Ways You Can Respond to Literature

Respond Emotionally - Tell what you liked or disliked about the book. Tell about something in the book that surprised you. How did the book or a character make you feel? What specific part(s) of the text made you feel this way? Did you have a favorite character? Did your feelings about the character change throughout the book?

Make Connections - Tell about the connections that you made while reading the book. Tell how it reminds you of yourself, of people you know, or of something that happened in your life. It might remind you of other books, especially the characters, the events, or the setting.

Make Predictions - Tell your predictions and about whether your predictions were right. Tell about the specific part of the text that confirmed your predictions.

The Main Event - Tell which event (in a narrative text) is most important. Explain why it is the most important event. For example, did this event cause other things to happen? Did it change the outcome of the story? Tell which fact (in an expository text) is most important and explain why.

Questions I Have Before, During and After My Reading - Tell about specific parts of the book that puzzled you or that made you ask questions. Does the author leave you with questions at the end of the chapter or book?

Character Study - Tell what you noticed about the characters, such as what made them act as they did or how he/she changed. What are the character's strengths and weaknesses? Does the character remind you of yourself or anyone else? Choose one word that best describes the character and give examples from the text that show why this word describes the character so well.

Be the Character - Put yourself in the character's place. What would you be feeling and thinking? What in the text helps you know what this character would be feeling and thinking? What might you do if you were this character?

Visualizing - Be an observer and visualize the scene in the text. What do you see, hear, smell, feel? This can be demonstrated with a picture and/or with words.

Compare and Contrast - Compare this book to another book you have read. How are the books similar and how are they different? ("This book reminds me of...") Or, compare one character to another character.

Language - Tell about the language the author used and why you think the author wrote this way. Were there words or phrases you thought were especially interesting? Were there new words? You may need to ask someone the meaning of the word, look the word up in a dictionary, or reread to gather more information. Were there words the author used to create a visualization for the reader? Were there specific words the author used to help you understand a specific character?

Clarify - Which parts of the story were difficult to understand? Were there specific words that made it more difficult to understand? Or, did you not understand what a character did or why they did it?

The Author - Discuss what you have learned about this author. What does the author do really well? How does the author get you interested in the book? Have you read other books by the same author? Would you like to read other books by this author? Why or why not?