

Rising Grade 6: Summer Reading Instructions

For your next book report, you will need to obtain and read **one** of the following books:

- * *Pictures of Hollis Woods* by Patricia Reilly,
- * *There's an Owl in the Shower* by Jean Craighead George,
- * *Hatchet* by Gary Paulsen, OR
- * *Maniac Magee* by Jerry Spinelli.

You will be given a composition book for this activity, with examples of sentence starters taped on its cover, to help you write double-entry journal responses.

As you read, you will write a double-entry response journal.

Directions for the Double-Entry Journal:

1. On each page of your journal, create two columns. Label the first, "What the Text Says" and the second, "My Response."
2. You may write more than one response on each page, provided they are neat and organized. It is best to use a box for each of your responses, like the example shown below.
3. You will do at least 15 entries.
4. Each entry should be neat, accurate, and in complete sentences.
5. On the left side of your double-entry journal, copy exactly a quote from the chapter or epilogue. *You should pick a quote that is key to the passage, that helps develop the theme(s) of the book, or one that is interesting to you or that presents a problem or character trait.*
6. Remember to add quotation marks around your quote, and copy your quote exactly as written. This means you will need to start a new line and indent for new paragraphs, and include punctuation and spelling exactly as written in the original.
7. At the end of your quote, open up a set of parenthesis and include the page number or numbers where you found that quote inside those parenthesis. This is called *citation*. See the example below!
8. Your quote should be at least two complete sentences.
9. On the right side of your double-entry journal, reflect and respond to your chosen quote. You may write about what you think it means; what effect it has on the plot, characters, or setting; or any questions it prompts you to ask. On the front of your composition book is a set of sentence starters to help you respond. You may use any of them, as often as you like.

10. Your response should be at least two complete sentences. Remember I am looking more for *substance, thought, and reflection* than length or correct grammar or spelling. Follow the 3:1 rule—for each quote, try to pull 3x the amount of thought in your writing. This means you must read and select quotes that strike you as meaningful, or that resonate with you somehow!

Sentence Starters for the Right Side of Your Double-Entry Journal:

"I think the author is saying that . . ."

"I had a similar conflict/situation when . . ."

"The author created a _____ mood in these sentences by . . ."

"This passage makes me think of . . ."

"These sentences remind me of a time when . . ."

"This relates to another book/story I've read where _____ because . . ."

"I am confused about _____ because . . ."

"I thought _____ about _____, but now my thinking has changed, because . . ."

"I wonder why . . ."

"I infer . . ."

Example of a Double-Response Journal from Barbara Kingsolver's *The Bean Trees*:

| What the Text Says | My Response |
|--|---|
| <p>"Esperanza pointed at Turtle. It was the first time I ever saw her smile, and I was struck with what a lovely woman she was when you really connected. Then the smile left her again.</p> <p>"Turtle, wielding a chopstick in each hand, had managed to pick up a piece of pineapple. Little by little she moved it upward toward her wide-open mouth, but the sticks were longer than her arms. The pineapple hung in the air over her head and then fell behind her onto the floor. We laughed and cheered her on, but Turtle was so startled she cried. I picked her up and held her on my lap" (144).</p> | <p>I can relate to Turtle trying to eat with chopsticks! It's not easy! She must be really little, to have arms smaller than the chopsticks. That must explain why, when the others cheer her on, she cries. She must have been really upset at losing that pineapple after she worked so hard to get it to her mouth so she could eat it! I can relate to her feelings: it's tough when you work so hard for something but still don't get it!</p> <p>I also like how the narrator notices Turtle is upset, and comforts her by picking her up. She seems to know what Turtle needs, and instinctively does the right thing to set the situation straight for her.</p> <p>I picked this quote because I liked how the narrator noticed Esperanza smile, and that smiles can really change how a person looks. I wonder why the smile left Esperanza so fast!</p> |

How You Will Be Graded:

1. Each entry shall be worth 6 points: 4 for your response's thoughtfulness and completion, and 2 points for accurately quoting the text. Remember that accurately quoting means to include paragraph spaces and/or indentations. Total possible: 90 pts.
2. 10 additional points can be earned for having a neat, thorough journal that followed these directions. Overall total: 100 points.

Enjoy!!