

Reading Responses

Directions: Each night complete a different reading response. You do not have to do these in order, but you must do each one at least one time.

1. Summarize what you read today. Explain the most important events in sequence.

Teacher Tip: Be sure to include the main characters, problem, and solution. A helpful formula for summarizing fiction texts is "Somebody (main character) Wanted (explain what they wanted) But (explain the problem) So (explain the solution)."

Sentence Starters: (Character's Name) wanted... but... So... (Instead of using Somebody-Wanted-But-So, you could try the following sentence starters.)

First, Next, Then, Finally,

2. How has the main character responded to a challenge or problem in his/her life? What solution(s) has he/she attempted?

Teacher Tip: Be sure to include the main character, his/her problem, and any possible solutions that have been attempted. Describe the character's thoughts, feelings, and actions.

Sentence Starters: (Character's Name) has had difficulty with...

He/she has thought/felt/acted...

To solve the problem, he/she has attempted to...

3. Describe an important event that happened in your story, drama, or poem along with the event's setting.

Teacher Tip: An event is something that has happened in a story. A setting includes both a "where" and a "when." Remember to cite key details from the text in your description.

Sentence Starters: The most important event so far happened when...

This event took place...

4. Describe a main character in your story. Explain his/her traits, motivations, thoughts, feelings, and actions.

Teacher Tip: Be sure to use precise adjectives to describe the character and include any evidence you found in the text. A character map would be a useful graphic organizer to help you respond to this prompt.

Sentence Starters: (Main Character's Name) is very... (Explain the character's personality/traits.)

I think this because... (Cite specific details from the text.)

(Character's Name) thinks...

(Character's Name) says...

(Character's Name) feels...

(Character's Name) acts... (For each example, cite specific details from the text.)

5. Explain how one character's actions caused a certain event to take place.

Teacher Tip: Characters' actions have an impact on the sequence of events that take place in a story. Think about what a character said or did and how it caused something else to happen. Think about how the events could have been different if the character would not have said or did a particular thing.

Sentence Starters: (Character's Name) caused... I know this because...

6. Compare and contrast two characters, two settings, or two events from a story, drama, or poem. Teacher Tip: Compare means to find similarities. Contrast means to find differences. Be sure to include any evidence you found in the text. Sentence Starters: _____ and _____ are similar because... _____ and _____ are different because...

7. From whose point of view is the story, drama, or poem being told?

Teacher Tip: Point of view refers to a person's perspective. It's "whose shoes you're in." Most stories are told from the "first-person" or "third-person" points of view. The "first-person" is someone who is in the story, usually a main character. The "third-person" is a narrator who is not in the story.

Sentence Starters: This story is told from the _____ person point of view. I know this because... (Cite specific details from the text.)

8. Why do you think the author organized your book into chapters? How does each chapter build upon the chapters that came before it?

Teacher Tip: Think about what your book would be like if it had no chapters. Why do chapters make your book easier and more exciting to read?

Sentence Starters: I think this book is organized by chapters because... Having chapters makes this book easier for a reader to read because... Each chapter builds upon the chapters before it by...

9. Explain how context clues helped you figure out the meaning of a word or phrase today.

Teacher Tip: Context clues are the words in the text that help you figure out the meaning of another word that may be unfamiliar for you. Rereading and reading ahead often help you to figure out a word that you might not understand at first. Think about a word or phrase that you were confused by at first as you read today. How did rereading or reading ahead help you figure out what that word or phrase meant?

Sentence Starters: At first, I had a difficult time with the word/phrase, _____ . I had to reread/read ahead to figure out its meaning. The context clue that helped me the most was... because... (Cite specific details from the text.) Now I think the word/phrase means...