

Choice Novel – Reading Journals Assignment

To show that you read your novel, and thought about it, you'll complete 3 reading journals. Reading journals are for you to extend and deepen your thinking about the text, and to practice making meaningful connections between the text, your own ideas and experiences, and the world.

You should complete 3 entries of about a page each (this might include drawing or sketching, thought webs, diagrams, notes, etc). They can vary in form. If you read more than one novel you can split your entries between novels.

DO:

- Write in your own voice – these can (and should) use “I”, and while the writing should be fluent and clear, your journals will not be assessed for writing
- Different entries should take different approaches. Some may involve discussing a quote, or specific event that happens in the story, while others might focus on making connections between your novel and something you've seen or learned elsewhere.
- Journals should show who you are, as a reader – your interests, concerns, curiosities, experiences. Tell me what you think!
- Explore things that confuse you and ask questions about them.
- Bring in other ideas and texts - like movies, TV, video games, politics, history, science, other books, and more

DON'T:

- Summarize the novel. Assume your reader has read it!
- Treat it as a formal essay or paragraph. This is exploratory writing.
- Rehash stuff you find online – at best, it's unoriginal; at worst, it's plagiarism.

Assessment - Your rubric is on the reverse. Each journal will be graded out of 4 for a total of 12 marks. You can submit in paper, or digitally.

Due date: January 31

Rubric: Response Writing - English 12

	Beginning (1)	Developing (2)	Proficient (3)	Extending (4)
Engagement with Text <i>Making meaning of the text</i>	Is mostly summary Misunderstands or misinterprets the text	Makes some inferences and observations about characters, themes, conflict, etc May be a very general discussion	Makes inferences about meaning – themes, characters, etc Discusses specific aspects of text. Able to look closely.	Makes sophisticated, insightful observations about text Discusses specific aspects of text. Able to look closely, and interpret.
Making Connections <i>Bridging between the text and the world</i>	Makes very few connections, or connections that aren't logical or meaningful	Makes some connections, with a little explanation Connections may be fairly superficial	Makes and explains meaningful connections to experiences, knowledge, other texts, etc	Synthesizes meaning by making original, insightful connections (personal, academic, political, media, culture, etc)

You don't need to explore both aspects in every journal, but you should across the three you submit.

