

Weekly Constructed Response

You may only use each journal prompt once per book. Please review the requirements before you write your paragraph:

- These are always due **TUESDAY!**
- Answer one a week on a loose leaf paper or print them at home.
- Make sure that your **NAME** is on it and that you **WRITE THE QUESTION** that you are answering at the top.
- You need to write 1 paragraph (at least 6 sentences)
- You must have a **TOPIC SENTENCE** → which means that the first sentence I read needs to encompass/summarize the entire paragraph. No vague sentences!
- You also need to tell me what book you're reading, and include any relevant context (ask yourself: if someone hasn't read this book, will my paragraph make sense?).
- You must use 1 quotation (with corresponding page number in the in-text citation) that supports your topic sentence (your main point). I do **not** need a Works Cited/Bibliography

Fiction Questions

Beginning:

1. How does the book begin? First describe the events that start the story. Then tell if this is a good, effective way for the author to start the book. Explain why or why not. Perhaps give ideas on how the beginning could improve.
2. What is the problem or conflict of your book? Which characters are involved? How might the problem or conflict be solved?
3. What is the setting? Remember that setting is the place, time, and mood (the feelings or vibes you feel from the story). Your book will most likely not tell you exactly when and where it takes place, but you can find clues in the story. Be sure to include how the setting impacts the story.

Middle:

4. Who is the main character in the book? What is this character like? Tell the character's name, age, appearance, friends, personality, and problems. Why does understanding this matter?
5. Who is the antagonist (bad guy) in the book? Describe this character and the way they "oppose", or work against, the main character.
6. Describe a minor character. Identify the character by name and describe him/her. What is the character's part in the story? How does this character feel about the main character and vice-versa? Use examples from the story.
7. Which character do you like the least? Name this character, tell what part they play in the story, and describe why you don't like the character. (Try to avoid using "I" and personal pronouns)
8. Are the events in your book realistic or unrealistic? Could they really happen, are they fantasy, or a mix of both? Explain using specific examples from the book, and explain why this matters.
9. Explain how a character in your book reminds you of yourself or someone you know. For example, do you or a friend or relative like some of the same things, have some of the same interests, or have similar problems as a character in your book? (On this question, you may use "I" and other personal pronouns)

10. If you were the main character in your book, how would you handle the situation he or she faces in the story? Be sure to briefly describe the situation before telling how you would handle it. (On this question, you may use "I" and other personal pronouns)

End:

11. What do you think of the title of this book? Is it a good title? Does it fit your book? Why do you think the author chose this title? Explain how the title fits the book or make up a better title and tell why the new title is better.
12. How did the main character in your book change or grow from the beginning to end? What or who helped them change? Was that change a good thing or a bad thing? Maybe even a little of both?
13. Was there a moment when the author made us feel the most suspense? When? How? Does this affect how we relate or engage with the book?
14. What foreshadowing (early hints) did the author give us about how the story would end? Did you know how the book would end due to this foreshadowing? Did you miss it and find yourself surprised? How does this impact the way you see this book?
15. What caused the story to end the way it did: the character's luck, hard work, skill, or a bright idea? What is more important in real life?
16. What is the theme (or one of the themes) of the book? (Basically, what lesson can you learn and apply to life after reading this book?)

Nonfiction Questions

1. What made you want to read this book? Did it live up to your expectations? Why or why not?
2. What did you know about the subject prior to reading this book? Did you learn anything new about this person? If you knew of the subject before, did anything you read change your opinion?
3. What is the subject's most admirable quality? Is this someone you would want to know or have known?
4. What did you find to be the most interesting events in this book? What, if anything, surprised you?
5. If this person impacted history, discuss what may have been different without his or her presence.
6. What did you learn about the time period in which the book is set that you did not previously know? Discuss the time period in history that each person in the group enjoys reading about most, and why.
7. Has reading this book inspired you to do further research on the subject and the time period discussed?
8. Compare this book to others you have read. Is it similar to any of them? Did you like it more or less than the other books you've read? What do you think will be your lasting impression of the book as a whole? How about the subject specifically?
9. Were you glad you read this book? Would you recommend it to a friend? Do you want to read more works by this author or more about the book's subject?
10. Did the author write in a particular style, tone, or manner? How did this add or subtract to the book?
11. What is the overall purpose/message/lesson in the book? Do you think this is an important purpose/message/lesson? Why?