

Independent Reading Journal Prompts

IR#1 - DUE December 1st (choose TWO from PROMPTS 1-5)

IR#2 - DUE December 8th (choose TWO from PROMPTS 6-10)

IR#3 - DUE December 15th (choose TWO from PROMPTS 11-15)

IR#4 - DUE December 22nd (choose TWO from PROMPTS 16-19)

DIRECTIONS: For each topic, be clear and have thorough and thoughtful discussions. Use specific information from the book (quotes & page #s) when it makes sense (they are not needed every time). *Show us you can have good, smart, and academic conversations about the novel you are reading.*

We will be following this pattern each week:

Monday: READ

Tuesday: WRITE

Wednesday: READ

Thursday: WRITE

Friday: READ

Prompts:

1. Tell me why you chose your book to read. What factors went into your decision (interesting cover, back cover, recommendation)?
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 of your story? Remember that the setting is both the place and time of 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. Is this a modern story (computers, video games, shopping malls, etc.)? Does it take place in a city, suburb, or farm area? Be sure to tell the clues that give the setting of your story.
4. Describe a minor character in your book. 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.
5. Are the events in your book realistic or unrealistic? Could they really happen, are they fantasy, or is it a mix of both? Explain using specific examples from the book.
6. 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?
7. How does your book begin? First, describe the events that start your story. Then tell if this is a good, effective way for the author to start the book. Explain why or why not. What would you change?

8. Who is the main character in your book? What is this character like? Tell the character's name, age, appearance, friends, personality, and problems...
9. Would you like to live like the characters in your book? Explain how they live (the situation) and why or why not you would like to live like that.
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.
11. What do you think of the title of your 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. Predict what will happen next in your book. To do this you must briefly explain the situation, make your prediction, and tell why you predict this.
13. Could your story take place in Miami or another nearby suburb, or is the setting (time and place) of your book definite and not similar to Miami? Explain.
14. Who is the antagonist (bad guy) in your book? Describe this character and the way they "oppose", or work against, the main character.
15. Which character in your book 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.

16. How did the main character in your book change or grow from the beginning to the end?

17. Was there a moment when the author made us feel the most suspense?
When?

18. What hints did the author give us about how the story would end?

19. 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?