

Novel Study – Reader Response Journals

Upper half papers are characterized by well-supported, original ideas, clear evidence of an organizational plan and general mastery of the conventions of standard English, although even the strongest papers may contain some developmentally appropriate errors in spelling or sentence structure.

The “6” journal shows passionate reactions positively or negatively to selection (using quotes) and explains insightfully and in depth how these reactions are produced. Explanation shows sophisticated understanding of textual elements, and makes insightful observations about abstract elements (symbolism, theme, irony, etc.) Makes multiple and insightful connections to personal experience and/or to other subjects, other texts, & other people’s experiences.

The “5” journal shows interest in selection either positively or negatively through thoughtful consideration of main idea and details. Few quotes are provided. Explanation is substantial and effective. Explanation shows excellent understanding of literal elements, recognition of more abstract elements and some explanation of their significance. Makes logical and/or empathetic connections to and beyond personal experiences.

The “4” journal shows considerable interest in selection, or explains clearly and with some detail why the selection does not interest this reader. No quotes used. Has thought beyond basic expressions of liking or disliking. Explanation shows a good understanding of literal elements and a beginning recognition of some abstract elements such as symbolism, theme, irony, etc. Makes logical and/or empathetic connections to personal experiences.

Lower half papers lack originality or effective support for ideas. Vocabulary may be immature and control of conventions of standard English is inadequate.

The “3” journal shows some interest in selection, or explains why the selection does not interest this reader. Shows basic expressions of liking or disliking. Explanation shows some understanding of literal elements. Makes few logical and/or empathetic connections to personal experiences.

The “2” journal shows little interest in responses and provides no explanations for lack of interest in selections. Explanation shows errors in basic understanding of plot, characterization and/or setting. Chooses not to make connections to personal experiences or to prior knowledge.

The “1” journal shows little interest in responses and provides no explanations for lack of interest in selections. Explanation shows many errors in basic understanding of plot, characterization and/or setting. Chooses not to make connections to personal experiences or to prior knowledge.

*An asterisk code is used for papers that are blank or illegible.