

Reader's Response Journal Forms



These worksheets were created to be used with a Reader's Response Journal. They are made to be used with any type of book a student may be reading. These forms were created by Jessica Cobb (cobbj@lcsc.k12.in.us) and are to be used **ONLY** for classroom use. They are not to be sold or posted on any website other than www.leapinginto5thgrade.com.



August 2009

Dear Students,

I love to read!! It is the one thing that lets me travel to another world. A world which allows me to be a wizard, travel to a deserted island, be a hero, solve mysteries, and much more! I could go on and on, but I think you get the picture. I love to read!

This school year you are going to write me a letter once every two weeks to show me what you are reading. In this letter, I want you to describe the adventure that you are going on while you are reading your book. I want to know what types of connections you are making to your reading. Did the main character do something that you would do? Does the setting remind you of a place you have been? Does the plot remind you of another book you have read? In short, I want you to talk to me about your book through writing.

There really is no right or wrong way to do this, but there are guidelines. There will be things that I will expect to be in your letter. There are some simple things that you must include: date, indenting paragraphs, answering my questions, and a brief summary of what you are reading. Then there are the big things, such as making connections, asking questions, and closing comments. Your letters should only briefly "tell" me what the book is about. The main thing I am looking for is your emotions, memories, and anything else that "shows" me what you think about your book.

I am very excited about reading your letters. I can't wait to find out about the adventures you are having while you are reading your book. I want you to love reading as much as I do. Let the reading adventure begin!!!

Your teacher,

Mrs. Cobb

P.S. Be sure to check out the sample letter to help you. Also be sure to use the checklist to make sure you have all parts of your letter!

Sample Letter

August 2009

Dear Mrs. Cobb,

I have been reading a wonderful book this week. I am sure you have read it or at least watched the movie. I have to say the book is much more exciting than a movie ever could be. The book is *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban* by J.K. Rowlings.

I know you have probably read this book, but I want to tell you about what I have read so far. At this point, Harry has just found out that his parents' best friend and his godfather, Sirius Black, told Voldemort where to find Harry and his family. Harry is upset and pledges to make Sirius Black pay for what he has done.

This book is so exciting. I really feel as if I am Harry. The author does a wonderful job of making you feel as if you are the characters in the book. I can understand why Harry wants to get Sirius Black back for what he did. I have felt this way about my brother when he has told on me for something I have done. I want to get him back, because usually he is just as guilty as me. Have you ever felt this way?

In last week's letter you asked what kind of books I really like to read. I love to read books like *Harry Potter*. I like to pretend that I can also do magic. At least while I am reading the book, I can create magic, because I am Harry.

I really can't wait to dive back into my book tonight. What was your favorite part of the book if you have already read it? I want to find out what happens to Harry and his friends next. When I finish this book, I am definitely going to read book 4!

Your student,

Ima Reader

Reader's Response Journal Checklist

Use the following checklist to help you write your letter.
Remember, your letter must have all of the parts in
order to receive the 30 points.

Does your letter have?:

- Date (1 pt)
- Greeting (1 pt)
- Paragraphs Indented (1 pt)
- Answered teacher's questions (5 pts)
- Author & Title (2 pts)
- Brief Summary (5 pts)
- Made Connections to Reading (10 pts)
- Asked Questions (2 pts)
- Closing Comments (1 pt)
- Closing (1 pt)
- Signature (1 pt)

Use the following checklist to help you write your letter.
Remember, your letter must have all of the parts in
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- Signature (1 pt)

Reader's Response Scoring Guide

Name: _____ Date: _____

_____/1 Date

_____/1 Greeting

_____/1 Paragraphs Indented

_____/5 Answered Questions

_____/2 Author & Title

_____/5 Brief Summary

_____/10 Made Connection

_____/2 Asked Questions

_____/1 Closing Comments

_____/1 Closing

_____/1 Signature

_____/30 _____ Grade

Reader's Response Scoring Guide

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_____/30 _____ Grade

Created by Jessica Cobb (cobbj@lcs.k12.in.us). For **Classroom Use Only**.

This was developed after researching different books and websites for Reader's Response Journals. This is how I score my students. I do not focus on grammar skills in the student's Reader's Response Journal. I am more interested in their ability to make connections, ask questions, and their overall tone in their letter. I attach a score sheet to the student's journal entry.