

READER RESPONSE GUIDELINES

Your reader response letter should begin with a **summary**. A summary tells your reader about what you're reading. It is concise and informative.

A GOOD SUMMARY INCLUDES:

- Title, author and genre of what you're reading or have read
- What the text is about (who/what/why/where/when/how)
- Main conflict, or problem facing the protagonist
- Theme, if known

Your response letter should also include a **reflection**, or section in which you reflect on what you have read. It reveals what you've been thinking about and demonstrates that you can think critically about a text.

IDEAS FOR REFLECTION:

- Connections: text to self, text to text, or text to world
- Questions: about the text, why a character made a particular decision, why the author included certain details, etc.
- Character analysis: How did the character(s) change from the beginning of the story to the end?
- Setting: What role did the setting play in the story? Were characters affected? Remember, setting includes time period and cultural context, as well as place.
- Conflict: man vs. man; man vs. himself; man vs. nature; man vs. world/society; man vs. technology/supernatural
- Ending: Was it satisfying? How so? If not, how might you have rewritten it? Why do you think the author ended it in such a way?
- Theme: What is the overarching message about life the author is attempting to convey? What does the character learn about him/herself and the world?
- Author's writing style: compare/contrast to others writing in the genre

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