

5th GRADE SUMMER READING JOURNAL RESPONSES

Respond to your summer reading by writing a journal. These responses need not be in formal essay form but should show your reflections and reactions as you read. Most of the suggestions below require only a paragraph-response. There are no right or wrong answers here; however, your response should demonstrate serious thought and care and should reflect your personal reactions to your reading. Choose two topics from Group I Suggestions, two topics from Group II Suggestions, and two topics from Group III Suggestions. Please be sure to identify the author and title of the book you have read as well as the topics to which you have responded. Happy Reading 5th Graders!

GROUP I SUGGESTIONS

After you have read a few chapters, choose two of the following:

1. Predict what you think the major problem for the main character is going to be. How do you think he/she will deal with it? What can you anticipate for the rest of the book? (Correctness does not count here; just make a guess.)
2. Does one of the main characters remind you of someone you know? Explain why.
3. Choose a close friend or family member and write a letter. Explain to that person why he or she would like or dislike the book at this point.
4. Create your own response that seems appropriate after you have read a few chapters.

GROUP II SUGGESTIONS

After you are midway into the book, choose two of the following:

1. Summarize the problems that the characters are facing. What might be possible solutions? What might hinder success?
2. Choose an incident to which you can relate. Explain the event and why it is significant to you.
3. Take a photo or find a picture in a magazine and tape it into your journal. Explain how it creates the feeling or suggests a scene from the book.
4. List four or five key events which have occurred in the main character's life. Explain why each event was important.
5. Choose a quote from the first half of the book that is significant to you. Explain its relationship to the book and you.

GROUP III SUGGESTIONS

After you have finished reading the book, choose two of the following:

1. You are a teacher. Prepare a bulletin board about this book. Explain what you would put up to illustrate the book.
2. You are the director of the movie version of this work. Assist the musical director in choosing the music which would convey the mood of the original book. Explain whom you would cast for the main characters and tell why.
3. The main character will appear on "Sixty Minutes." Make up a set of questions to ask in the interview.
4. You are a writer for a school newspaper. Write a review of this book highlighting its major points and making a recommendation to your readers.