Reader Response Journal

A Reader Response Journal invites you to interact with text rather than regurgitate it (this is NOT a book report per say). The novel of your choosing—and my approval—will provide several possibilities in terms of the approach you use to create your individual reader response journal:

Notes and Quotes—there may be a particular spot in the text that you wish to focus on. Copy the text and react to it with your thoughts and ideas (copy of the text does not count toward your page requirement)

Short Essay—on a particular theme or recurrence in the book

Comparisons—find other media that is relevant to some aspect of the book and compare the two

Cross-Genre—write a poem, song, newspaper article, diary entry, etc. related to the book

Descriptions—describe things you find along the way and your reaction to them; how are you making sense of the text?

Drawings—draw a detailed scene or character sketch (2 drawings maximum, each worth ½ a page of text) and give a brief description of the drawing

THIS IS NOT A BOOK SUMMARY! Instead, your responses are meant to be creative and “outside of the box” without wasting space telling me what your novel was about. Think of it as a collection of writings as you’re reading your book. It’s free choice how you organize and arrange it! You don’t have to read 10 pages and then respond, read another 10/respond...nor do you have to write after every chapter you read. Respond when you feel it is appropriate to do so. Each student’s RRJ is going to look different, and some entries are going to be longer than others.

Your responses must be thorough. They also need to represent chronological progression through the book. You can respond as you wish to the novel so long as it shows a consistent attempt to both understand and “talk back” to the story. Use a variety of responses; you can’t have 10 pages of descriptions, for example. If you have alternative approaches to the reader response journal entries, discuss them with me to make sure that they are acceptable.

You must do one narrative piece in order to satisfy another practice on the narrative writing standards for the quarter. The format is at your discretion!

Bring in an early response to your novel, so I can make sure that you are confident in the quality of your initial responses to the reading. Also, feel free to reference the many examples I have of well-done Reader Response Journals. Your response journal to your novel must amount to at least ten pages of college-ruled paper (front and back of 5 sheets of college-ruled paper) or 8 pages typed (double spaced, TNR, 12 font, default margins). Your best bet for this project is to work on it AS you read the book, not after!

Early Response Due (first 2 entries): _____________  Final Reader Response Journal Due: _____________