

AP Literature and Composition Reader Response Logs

Reading a Work and Responding to It Actively

Sometimes readers confuse a cursory reading with an active reading. A quick reading of a work is little more than that: for example, you might read an entire story and not be able to say anything about it at all. A more careful, active reading, however, enables you to understand and respond to questions about meaning and organization. Obviously, we must first follow the work and understand its details. At the same time we must respond to the words, get at the ideas, understand the implications of what is happening, and apply our own experiences to verify the accuracy and truth of the situation and incidents, to appreciate the characters and their solutions to the problems they face, and to articulate our own emotional responses. In short, as active, participating readers, we should assimilate the work into our minds and spirits. (*Literature: An Introduction to Reading and Writing, Second Edition*. Englewood Cliffs, N.J.: Prentice Hall, 1989.)

Instructions

For your Summer Reading, you will be required to complete reader response logs whereby you will read and respond to literature. Reading logs should be completed *as you read*.

Summer Reading Text: *The Awakening* by Kate Chopin

PLEASE NOTE: you are required to include 20 entries on your reading log. Read the blurb following the definition to complete your reading log entries.

1. **Tone/Shifts** – the writer’s attitude toward the topic; *identify the writer’s tone and any shifts in tone that occur*; words that describe an author’s tone might include *critical, angry, sympathetic, caustic, sarcastic, satirical, etc.*
2. **Style** – anything a writer does which distinguishes him or her from other writers; *identify elements of the writer’s style of writing, what makes him or her unique*
3. **Theme** – the main idea or message of a literary work; *state a theme for the work using a complete, general statement*
4. **Setting** – the time and place of the story’s action; *identify the place and time of the action, note any shifts in setting as well*
5. **Writer’s Intention** – what the writer intended to convey to the reader; *identify the writer’s purpose*
6. **Conflict(s)** – a struggle between two opposing forces; *identify ALL conflicts including internal (man vs. himself) and external (man vs. man, man vs. society, man vs. nature)*
7. **Point of View/Shifts** – the vantage point from which the story is told; *identify the point of view of the work, first person, third person, and any shifts in point of view*
8. **Mood/Shifts** – the feeling or atmosphere that the work gives off; *identify the atmosphere or mood of the work, including any shifts in mood*
9. **Characterization Methods #1** – the method a writer uses to familiarize the reader with the characters in a work; *identify the methods of characterization the writer uses, including behavior, speech, physical description, thoughts and feelings, thoughts and feelings of other characters toward the main character*

10. **Characterization Methods #2** – the method a writer uses to familiarize the reader with the characters in a work; *identify the methods of characterization the writer uses, including behavior, speech, physical description, thoughts and feelings, thoughts and feelings of other characters toward the main character*
11. **Characterization Methods #3** – the method a writer uses to familiarize the reader with the characters in a work; *identify the methods of characterization the writer uses, including behavior, speech, physical description, thoughts and feelings, thoughts and feelings of other characters toward the main character*
12. **Personal Connections** – *identify how the reading relates to your prior experience*
13. **Personal Response #1** – *identify your reactions to the reading AS YOU READ*
14. **Personal Response #2** – *identify your reactions to the reading AS YOU READ*
15. **Title's Significance** – *identify how the title relates to the work...consider foreshadowing if applicable*
16. **Theme of Individual Freedom** – identify how the author comments on or explores this idea
17. **Motif** – find and explain a repeated pattern (image, sound, word) that comes back again and again in the story.
18. **Symbolism #1** – explain your understanding of what the “caged birds” represent.
19. **Symbolism #2** – explain your understanding of what the “sea” represents.
20. **Reaction/Reflection** – journal your reaction to the conclusion of the story, and reflect on the book as a whole by stating your overall opinion.

Entry # <u>1</u>	Example from Text	Explanation
Tone / Shifts	Steinbeck's tone is clearly observed in the passage. <i>“provide the actual text from the novel here”</i> . His tone is critical and angry toward the banks and how they treat the poor.	Steinbeck's tone impacts the novel in several ways....etc. (Explain, Explain, Explain.)

Due Date: All the Reader Response Logs are due the first day of school. The book will be addressed in class over the first few weeks of school, culminating in Socratic Seminars, an in-class essay, or a take-home essay.

Grade: Each Reader Response Log is worth 10 points for a total of 200 points.

The Awakening
Reader Response Log

Name _____

Entry # 1	Example from Text	Explanation
Tone/Shifts		
Entry # 2	Example from Text	Explanation
Style		
Entry # 3	Example from Text	Explanation
Theme		
Entry # 4	Example from Text	Explanation
Setting		
Entry # 5	Example from Text	Explanation
Writer's Intention		

Entry # 6	Example from Text	Explanation
Conflict(s)		
Entry # 7	Example from Text	Explanation
Point of View/Shifts		
Entry # 8	Example from Text	Explanation
Mood/Shifts		
Entry # 9	Example from Text	Explanation
Characterization Methods #1		
Entry # 10	Example from Text	Explanation
Characterization Methods #2		

Entry # 11 Characterization Methods #3	Example from Text	Explanation
Entry # 12	Example from Text	Explanation
Personal Connections		
Entry # 13	Example from Text	Explanation
Personal Response #1		
Entry # 14	Example from Text	Explanation
Personal Response #2		
Entry # 15	Example from Text	Explanation
Title's Significance		

Entry # 16	Example from Text	Explanation
Theme of Individual Freedom		
Entry # 17	Example from Text	Explanation
Motif		
Entry # 18	Example from Text	Explanation
Symbolism #1 “caged birds”		
Entry # 19	Example from Text	Explanation
Symbolism #2 “the sea”		
Entry # 20	Reaction to the Conclusion	Reflection
Reaction/Reflection		

Where to Get the Book

- We highly recommend purchasing your own personal copy for use over the summer. There's nothing like the feel of a book in your hands! Plus, if you have a personal copy, you can write in it, make annotations, highlight, etc. and keep it forever. 😊
 - Retailers such as Barnes & Noble and Amazon have new copies for under \$7.
 - Discount book sellers, such as thriftbooks.com, carry used copies in the \$3-\$5 range.
 - Local small businesses, such as Book Trader (73 Westfield Ave., Clark), also carry several copies.
- If purchasing your own book is not an option, the Linden Public Library has a few copies available for borrowing, as well as eBook and eAudioBook options.
- If those options don't work for you, there's always a pdf version, which you can download and read electronically, or print out on your own.