

Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition Summer Reading Logs

Creating a Reader's Log with Textual Evidence & a Line of Reasoning:

A reader's log is a method of recording one's reactions to literature while it is being read. It may include opinions, feelings, and connections to real life or other literature, analysis of specific lines of the text, examination of unclear words/passages, or questions. Its purpose is to assist a reader in examining the text more carefully and as a source of material for later thinking, discussion, or writing.

This kind of writing is usually done in two columns with a quote from the text on the left and the reader's corresponding comment on the right. It is evaluated on the basis of its quality, as well as quantity.

Thoughts may be recorded immediately, or notes may be made in the text and more detailed responses written at a more natural breaking point, such as the end of a page or the end of a chapter. The key to the process is not to lose an important reaction by failing to make note of it for later. (Making annotations in the novels as you read will help with this; be sure to use a post-it when reading a borrowed text.)

Please type your reading logs on a Google Doc to submit on Google Classroom. **For each of the novels and dramas on the summer reading list, make one reader's log consisting of a minimum of 10 entries.** Each of these logs will be worth 10 points, for a total of 40 points. (Remember that these titles are *The Poisonwood Bible*, *Pride and Prejudice*, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, and *Othello*.)

For each of the short stories on the summer reading list, make one reader's log consisting of a minimum of 5 entries. Each of these logs will be worth 5 points, for a total of 20 points. (Remember that these titles are "The Most Dangerous Game," "Everyday Use," "Babylon Revisited," and "The Necklace.")

This means that you will have 8 total logs. You may include all 8 logs on the same Google Doc or use 8 separate documents if you prefer. Simply identify the title of the literary work at the top of each document page to show which log corresponds with which novel, drama, or short story. For your entries, you can consider opinions, feelings, connections to real life and other literature, thematic observations, examination of unclear words, etc. Proofread your work. There is one specific additional requirement for each log.

During your senior year of AP Literature, a specific literary element that will be focused on is discovering symbolism and motifs in the works we read.

→Remember that symbolism is a literary device that uses symbols, such as words, objects, people, locations, or abstract ideas to represent something beyond the literal meaning.

→Symbols are everywhere in our daily lives if you take the time to look for them, and the same is true in the pages of novels, plays, short stories, and poems. Your job is to be a detective when you read and to spot the symbolism!

- A good place to start is to be aware of characters' names (or lack of names).
- Seasons and weather are other symbols to be on the lookout for when reading. If it is fall, the connotation is likely that a character is experiencing a change in his or her life, just like the leaves change colors in the autumn. If there is a pounding thunderstorm in a story, something devastating might be lurking in the character's future.
- If an author bothers to mention a specific color, it almost always means something. For example, say that the color white is used to describe a character's clothes. Color symbolism suggests that white is associated with purity, so the author is likely making a point about the purity of a character.
- Now, say that the color white is repeated throughout the novel, play, or short story multiple times. This is a motif! A **motif** is a repeated pattern – a symbol, image, word, etc. that comes back again and again within a particular literary work. Looking for patterns in literature is one of the most important parts of becoming a skilled reader.

All of this being said, here is your additional log requirement. **On each of your 8 logs, two of your entries must include a reference to a symbol or motif in the literary work. Please bold and underline the literary element term (symbol/motif) in the log.** Specific examples follow.

Sample Reader's Log Entries: (This log is based on *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*, which is not one of your summer reading novels.) One column is labeled Text and includes a specific quote/textual evidence from the literary work with the page number in parentheses; the other column is labeled Reader to differentiate your reaction:

The Rime of the Ancient Mariner

<u>Text</u>	<u>Reader</u>
"Water, water, everywhere, and all the boards did shrink. Water, water everywhere, nor any drop to drink" (28).	A well-phrased depiction of the treachery and hopelessness of a sailor's plight. Water often symbolizes cleansing and rebirth in literature, but this is an ironic use of the sea.
"The Sun came up on the left. Out of the sea came he; the Storm blast came" (52).	Quite a bit of personification of the natural elements, including the capitalization of Sun and Storm. Repetition is also utilized.
"Yea, slimy things did crawl with legs upon the slimy sea" (101).	Reminds me of a scene in <i>The Great Hunt</i> where creatures crawled out the sea. The sea becomes a motif that represents mystery.

***This sample log includes 3 entries. Remember that you will need 10 entries for the novels/dramas and 5 entries for the short stories.

***This sample log includes 2 entries with symbolism or motif connections. Make sure that each of your logs also includes 2 entries specifically related to symbols or motifs in the literary work.