

Reading Logs - Honors American Literature & Composition

Students must answer the following questions for **each** summer selection. You may NOT use any literary notes or the Internet for help.

Your answers should be in complete sentences/paragraphs with text evidence where applicable. (40 points possible for selection; 5 Points possible overall for grammar and mechanics). Total Points: 45 for each selection.

Please check the "Welcome Letter" for due dates for each selection.

Title of the Work: _____

Author: _____

Genre: _____

Narration/Style (5 Points)

1. Who is telling the story?
2. What is the narrator's point of view: i.e. Is the story being told as it happens? Recalled from past events? As an internal monologue?
3. How would you describe the narrator's tone? In other words, what is the narrator's attitude towards his/her subject?
4. To what extent can you trust the narrator? Explain your answer.
5. What are the people in the story NOT talking about? What leaves the reader wanting more or seems unfinished?

Characterization (10 Points)

6. Pick one MAJOR character (the protagonist) and tell what you know about him/her in terms of:
 - a. the plot.
 - b. the conflicts he or she faces internally and externally?
 - c. the relationship between the setting and the character?
 - d. whether or not the character changes(is static or dynamic) in response to the experiences in the story? What lesson can be learned from the character's change of heart or reluctance to change?

This answer should include text evidence from the novel as support.

7. Find a quote from the reading selection that illustrates the essence of the character and explain what it highlights. Note the page number also.

Setting/ Atmosphere (5 Points)

8. How does the historical setting/context affect the story's outcome or meaning? How would the story be different in a different time period or setting? Do you notice any cultural biases, traditions, or religious views, in place that drives the characters?

Theme (15 Points)

9. Does your answer to the question, "What is this story about?" remain the same throughout your reading? If not, at point does it change? (2 Points)
10. What must you know in order to understand this story? (1 Point)
11. Why is this an important story? What matters the most? Pick **three** important ideas that the author is trying to get across and explain them **in depth**. Be sure to use examples from the story as text evidence. (12 Points)

Reflection (5 Points)

12. Which character do you most identify with? Why?
13. How would you complete this sentence....
"After reading this story, I still don't understand_____?"
14. One word to describe the tone of this story is _____
because_____.
- 15.. Tell one thing you learned about each of these major topics from reading the following selections that you did not know beforehand:
For *Black Boy*, what did you learn about the Jim Crow Era?
For *Farewell to Arms*, what did you learn about WWI?
For *The Great Gatsby*, what did you learn about the "Roaring 20's"?
For *Grapes of Wrath*, what did you learn about the Great Depression?