

Summer Reading Journal Outline

Front Cover Requirements

Students design a creative, neat cover including:

- Book title
- Author
- Artwork: an illustration inspired by the story

Inside Cover

- First and last name
- Date the book was started
- Date the book was completed

Table of contents

1. Author Research
2. Book information
3. Chapter Summaries and Personal Responses (for each five chapters)
4. Character Analysis
5. Plot Structure Breakdown
6. Comprehension Reflection Questions
7. Conclusion

1. Author Research

- Birthplace and two sentences about early life
- Education
- Career background
- Other books she has written (list two)
- Awards or recognition
- Interesting facts (Two sentences)
- How personal life experiences may have influenced the book

2. Book Information

Record:

- Title
- Author
- Genre
- Publication Year
- Main Setting(s)
- Main characters

3. Chapter Summaries and Personal Responses

Read five chapters. After finishing those five chapters, stop and complete your journal entry. Then read the next five chapters and repeat the same process. Continue this read-and respond cycle until you finish the entire book. Use the same format for every journal entry in this section.

For each section of chapters, create a two-part entry:

A. Chapter Summary (4-6 sentences)

- Identify key events
- Explain important conflicts or discoveries
- Use academic vocabulary (according to text, motivation, conflict, consequences, turning point)

B. Personal Response (3-5 sentences)

- Describe your emotional reaction
- Explain what surprised you
- Connect the chapter to our own experiences or questions
- Reflect on what you learned about the characters

4. Character Analysis: Choose one major character and explain:

- Character traits (use strong adjectives; perceptive, impulsive, compassionate, stubborn) *Stay away from happy, bad, good.*
- Motivations and goals
- Challenges they face
- How they grow or change
- Why they are important to the story's message

5. Plot Structure Breakdown

Identify each part of the plot using complete sentences:

- Exposition-introduces characters, setting, and early situations
- Rising Action- Events that build tension and deepen the conflict
- Climax-The most intense turning point of the story
- Falling Action-Events that follow the climax and begin resolving the conflict
- Resolution- How the story's main problem is resolved

6. Comprehension Reflection Questions: Answer each in a short paragraph (4-6 sentences.

- What would you change about the ending?
- Who was your favorite character and why?
- What part of the book took you by surprise?
- What character did you find the most difficult to like, and why?
- What did you like and dislike about the story?
- What lesson or message did the author want the reader to learn?

7. Conclusion

Reflect on the entire reading experience:

- What did you learn from reading your book?
- How did the story connect to your own life or feelings?
- Would you recommend this book to another student? Why or why not?
- How did your understanding of the characters or themes change from beginning to end?

Your Journal will be graded on a 100-point scale:

- Front cover10 points
 - Author research page10 points
 - Book information page..... 5 points
 - Chapter summaries..... 20 points
 - Personal responses..... 15 points
 - Character Analysis..... 10 points
 - Plot structure breakdown... 10 points
 - Reflection questions..... 10 points
 - Conclusion..... 5 points
 - Neatness and Organization... 5 points
- Sentence structure and spelling count!**