

## Summer Reading Response Journal

*As you read, write your personal responses in your reading journal. State your feelings, thoughts, reactions, and questions about situations, ideas, actions, characters, settings, symbols, plots, themes, and any other elements in the story. You can't be wrong in your responses, so take risks and be honest. Write about what you like and dislike, what seems confusing or unusual to you. Tell what you think something means. Make predictions about what might happen later. Relate your personal experiences which connect with the plot, characters, or setting. Don't just summarize the plot. Let me hear your voice. Remember your response journal is a place to record your reactions and questions, not a place to simply summarize what you've read. Sometimes a summary will be necessary to get your point across. After you read the selection, ask yourself these questions. Decide which would make the best entry from your response journal. You may certainly use other ideas of your own. Just make sure you include more than just a summary of what is happening. Support your summaries with what you are feeling as you read your book. Doing this will help you get the MOST from your book. If you feel that you are stuck and need a little inspiration look to the comprehension strategy sheet to give you some guidance.*

### Common Questions

- Q How should my reading response journal entries look?  
A Included within this packet is a sample reading response journal entry. Do not feel obligated to write your reading response journal entries in the letter format displayed in the sample.
- Q Can I type my reading response journal?  
A You may type or neatly write your reading response journal entries.
- Q Where should I keep my reading response journal entries?  
A You need to keep all of your reading response journal entries in a binder or composition notebook. Your entries need to be organized and in chapter order.
- Q What are we going to do with our reading response journals upon our return to school?  
A We will be using your reading response journals during our small group reading discussions.

## Sample Reading Response Journal Entry

Dear Mrs. D.,

May 20, 2008

I continue to read Where the Red Fern Grows, by Wilson Rawls, and like I guessed, so much more has happened.

This young man was introduced to this dog at the beginning. He began to tell the story of him and how he longed for a dog. He begged and begged to his parents, helped with anything and everything around the house, the barn and in the field. He was a sweet young boy, who never asked for anything, and one day when he decides he wants dogs, so he asks his parents. Of course they can't afford it so now he lives in misery begging and begging.

I can connect to his love for dogs, and his begging for dogs. For many years, my brother, sister and I begged for a dog, but we just couldn't find the right dog. Finally we found one and got her.

I predict that he will get a dog, but after a lot of good doings for his parents and possibly raising money himself to buy the pup and to buy him food.

So far, I really like this book, and I can tell that it is already getting better, and it will be a book that I will enjoy. As I read more, the book fits more into place and I can understand a lot more now, too.

I was a little disappointed when the boy asks for one thing, the first time he has ever asked for anything, and his parents said no. I can see how they can't afford it, but I really feel sorry for the boy, because he does so much work for them, and gets nothing back from them. Well that's as far as I have got for now.

Thanks, from Iris.