

Responding to Fiction



Choose one of the following ways to respond to a fictional book. (Try a different one for each book you read.) Be sure to date each response and include the title and author of the book or story.

1. Summarize the book or a chapter of the book in writing or as a flowchart.
2. Illustrate and describe the setting (or settings) in the book.
3. Draw portraits of the characters and label them. Identify the protagonist and the antagonist, then write a description of each character.
4. Describe how you feel about each of the characters.
5. Write about ways in which this book and another book you have read are similar.
6. Describe how the events in this book made you feel.
7. Do you like the book you are reading? Explain why or why not.
8. Describe what you think will happen next in the story you are reading. Explain why you think so. Then, after reading further, compare your predictions with what actually happened.
9. What would you change about this book if you could? How would you change it?
10. What part or parts of the book do you think are the most interesting? Why?
11. Was there an event in the story you did not like? What do you think should have happened instead?
12. What message do you think the author was trying to tell you?
13. Choose two characters, events or settings from the story and think about their differences and similarities. Compare them in writing, or use a Venn diagram.
14. Describe a problem that occurred in the story and tell how the characters solved it.
15. Describe the ways in which one character changed from the beginning of the story to the end. What did the character learn from his or her experiences?
16. Choose an important event in the story and describe it from the viewpoint of one character. Then, describe how a different character felt about the event.
17. Think of something the main character in the book wanted early in the story. Did he or she get it? If so, how? If not, what happened to prevent it?
18. Think of a different setting for the story. How would the story have been different if it occurred in this setting?

Responding to Nonfiction



Choose one of the following ways to respond to a nonfiction book or article. (Try a different one for each book you read.) Be sure to date each response and write the name and author of the book

1. What was this book or article about? What information did it give you?
2. Did you learn anything that surprised you? What was it?
3. What else would you like to learn about the topic of the book or article?
4. Did the book or article make you want to read more on the topic? Why or why not?
5. What pictures, diagrams, charts or other graphics did the author use to provide or clarify information? Were they helpful?
6. Illustrate and describe the most interesting thing you learned from this book or article.
7. List and define some key words from the book or article.
8. Do you think the book was well organized, so that you were able to find information easily? If not, how would you improve it?
9. Think of another book or article you have read about the same or a similar topic and compare it to this one.
10. Would you recommend this book to someone else who was interested in the topic? Why or why not?
11. Draw a picture of something that could have been illustrated in the book, but was not. Write an appropriate caption for your picture.
12. Would this book be suitable for someone who is a year or two younger than you are? Explain why or why not.
13. If possible, make a time line for events described in the book. What time period did it cover?
14. Were any opinions expressed in the book? If so, do you agree or disagree with them? If not, write an opinion about something in the book.
15. Why do you think the author wrote this book or article? What was his or her purpose? Do you think the purpose was achieved?
16. If the book was a biography, make some comparisons between the subject's life and your own. What did you have in common?
17. If the book was about an adventure or exploration, think about what it would have been like to have gone along. Do you think you would have enjoyed it?
18. If the book is not set in modern times, list some of the changes that have taken place since the time period described in the book.