*Journal Entry Ideas*

*Personal Response to the Text*

*1. What are your first thoughts about the text? What in the text caused those thoughts?*

*2. What emotions or feelings did you have as you were reading the text?*

*3. Did this text remind you of other texts? Movies? Plays? Why?*

*4. If you could talk to the author of this text, what would you ask or comment about?*

*5. If you were going to recommend this text to someone, who would it be? Why?*

*6. What confused or surprised you about the text?*

*7. As you read this text, describe how you felt. For example, were you bored, caught up, thinking about the characters, enjoying the author’s style, or enjoying the humor or suspense?*

*8. How the book looks and the book’s title is a very important part of selling a book. What did you think of the title? Does it fit the book and make the book compelling? What about the cover- did it interest you? How?*

*Reflection About the Plot*

*1. What parts of the plot did you find to be the most significant? Why?*

*2. What were the turning points in this plot for you? Why?*

*3. What was the most important word in this text? Why?*

*4. What idea, image, or situation meant the most to you as you read this text? Why?*

*5. What did the author do that helped you enjoy this story? What made you not enjoy this story?*

*6. If this story were to continue, what do you think would happen next? Why?*

*7. If you could change the ending, would you? How would you change it?*

*Reflection on the Characters*

*1. Which characters did you enjoy the most? …the least? Why?*

*2.Do any of the characters remind you of yourself? Which ones? Why?*

*3. Did you think that the characters were believable? Why or why not?*

*4. Which character or characters did you think learned the hardest or most important lessons? Why did you choose this character?*

*5. What surprised you most about any of the characters?*

*6. If you could take on the qualities of any of the characters in this text, what qualities would those be?*

*7. What character changed the most? How did that character change? What did you learn about the character in watching that change?*

*8. If you were to eliminate a character from the text, who would it be? Why? How would eliminating the text change the story?*

*Reflections About the Setting*

*1. Was the setting important to this text? Why or why not?*

*2. How could you change the setting without changing the outcome of the text? How could you change to setting so that it would affect the text?*

*3. Does the setting remind you of a place that you know?*

*4. Which events are directly connected to the setting?*

*5. Did the setting affect what the characters did or didn’t do?*

*Reflections on the Theme*

*1. What message did you take away from the text? Why?*

*2. Which passage in the text would you consider most significant? Why? Did that passage help shape what you considered to be the message of the text?*

*3. If you were talking with the author, can you speculate what he/she might say the theme is? What in the text gives you hints to that?*

*4. How do the title, chapter titles, and/or cover illustrations help you determine a theme for the text?*

*5. How do the changes the main character undergoes help you make a decision about the message of the text?*

*6. The plot and theme are not the same. Think of the text you just read. What is the plot? What is the theme? How does the plot relate to or affect the theme?*

*7. What affected your interpretation of the theme the most: the plot, the characters, or the setting?*

*8. Think about several texts that you have enjoyed. Do they share similar themes? Different themes? If they share similar themes, what does that tell you about what you are looking for in a book or story?*

*Reflection on the Point of View, Author’s Style, and Author*

*1. Who told the story in the text you just read? Was the narrator a character in the story or an omniscient narrator?*

*2. How would the text have changed if a different character had told the story?*

*3. Can you speculate on why the author chose the narrator he/she did to tell this story?*

*4.How did the author make the story come to life? What specific words or phrases did the author use to help you see events, characters, and the setting?*

*5. Look at the beginnings of chapters. What did the author do to make you want to read the rest of the chapter? Also look at the endings. Did the author do something special to make you want to read on to the next chapter?*