

Book Journals

You are expected to read independently everyday for at least 20 minutes from a book of your *choice*. Why? Studies demonstrate that reading improves your comprehension, fluency, vocabulary, and writing skills!

To get started:

1. Pick a book that is at or above your lexile. You can borrow book from Hayt's library, a classroom library, or the Edgewater library.
2. Get teacher approval for that book.
3. Read for 20 minutes at home everyday. You may read longer, if you have time.

Next step: Complete an entry about the book you are reading. If you are not enjoying your book, please feel free to return the book and find another book to read.

Book entry should include:

Date Title and Author

Lexile (if known) and Genre

At least 4 times a week, complete a journal entry. Date each entry. Ex: Tuesday, September 8, 2015

Options for journal entries:

Option 1: Write a reflective journal entry. Pick one of the following questions to answer:

- a. How is the reading going for you?
- b. Is this an easy or a hard read for you? How do you know?
- c. Tell me about a time when this book has confused you and what you have done to get yourself back on track in your understanding.
- d. Tell me about these characters. Who they are, what do you think of them?
- e. What questions are at the heart of this book? What questions might the author be trying to answer through the struggles of these characters?
- f. If you are almost finished with the book, looking back over the book, what ways has the character changed in this story? Can you point to a specific moment?
- g. Could you make a claim about this character and support it with evidence from the text?
- h. How is this book different from the last book you read?

Trust the writer inside of you. Just Write.

Option 2: Vocabulary Words

Pick 5 vocabulary words to look at in-depth.

Complete a vocabulary chart on each word:

Word	Pg/phrase or sentence	Context Clues	What I think it means	Verified Definition
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Option 3: Response to Text

1. Select a phrase, a sentence, or a paragraph to respond to, which has appealed to you or has made you think.
2. Write the quote on your paper:
3. Use the following stems to help you write your responses:
 - a. I wonder...
 - b. I began to think of...
 - c. I like the idea of...
 - d. I was surprised when...
 - e. I can't really understand...
 - f. I am disturbed by...
 - g. It bothers me when....
 - h. I noticed that...
 - i. I don't see how....
 - j. Why did...
 - k. I learned that...
 - l. I was reminded of...

Example:

From Jazz by Toni Morrison: "A poisoned silence floated through the rooms like a big fishnet that Violet alone slashed through with loud recriminations." I think this simile is a fitting description of the atmosphere of the Trace household. In any home, silence can be more vicious than words, but in Joe and Violet's house it's particularly poisonous. Her anger and hurt and his indescribable silence drifts through the room and further poisons their relationship. I wonder if they will ever straighten out their problems. I hope he snaps out of his sadness in time to save his marriage.

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