

BLM 1 – Writing Reader Responses

Reader response is a process of writing to learn, rather than proving what you have learned through writing. It gives you an opportunity to approach the novel in a very informal way that allows you to examine your own thoughts, feelings, connections, and interactions. Because reader responses are a process of writing to learn, the focus of assessment is more on the quality of your exploration than on the quality of your writing itself.

Reading Journal Response Rubric	
Outstanding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> personalized, innovative, and thoughtful responses that make connections with previous knowledge and experience and other texts provides specific evidence that demonstrates close familiarity with and understanding of reading selection interprets and analyses genre, technique, and purpose of selection shows evidence of reflecting on and revising initial responses
Very Good	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> personal and thoughtful responses that make connections with previous knowledge and experience as well as other texts provides specific evidence that demonstrates familiarity with and understanding of reading selection may interpret and analyse genre, technique, and purpose usually shows evidence of reflecting on and revising initial responses
Good	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> personal and generally thoughtful responses that often make connections with previous knowledge and experience and other texts provides some specific evidence that demonstrates familiarity with and understanding of reading selection sometimes interprets and analyses genre, technique, and purpose may show evidence of reflecting on and revising initial responses
Satisfactory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> personal and sometimes thoughtful responses that may make connections with previous knowledge and experience and other texts may provide some evidence that demonstrates familiarity with and understanding of reading selection may attempt to interpret and analyse genre, technique, and purpose may show evidence of reflecting on initial responses, no revision
Minimally Acceptable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> personal responses that may make connections with previous knowledge and experience as well as other texts provides very limited evidence of familiarity with and understanding of text little/no attempt to interpret/analyse genre, technique, and purpose generally does not revisit initial responses
In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> limited and unclear responses no response attempted

Sample Reader Response

At the beginning of the story, the protagonist, Lena, remembers how she used to feel about the blue door on her parents' house. How did she feel when she was younger? Why did she feel that way? How is this significant to the rest of the story? At the end of the story, Lena feels differently about the blue door. How does she feel at the end? Why does she feel this way? How is this significant to the rest of the story?

When Lena sees the blue door she remembers how she used to feel about it when she was young. She hated the door. It was too different from the doors on the other houses. It seems that she was perhaps embarrassed of the door when she mentions that she “wished it had just been white like the rest of the house”. Her father had painted the door blue because he wanted it to stand out and make their house recognizable. This is significant to the rest of the story because there are many examples of things that stand out. One example would be the coyote who was trapped in the building in the city, a place that he didn't belong. Lena recognizes though, that the door is symbolic to her; it represents a sense of safety. It is referred to as “a blue barrier against the cold north wind” and “a cool blue shield against the summer heat”. By the end of the story, her maturity allows her to empathize with her father. She identifies the door as being blue to stand out in the stark whiteness of the landscape. She regards the blue as welcoming in a way that she had not felt while in the city. She sees the blue door as symbolic of a sense of home.