Reading Journal

Write your journal entries on standard notebook paper.

Please date each of your entries and number each page.

As you read, write your personal responses to the work. State your feelings, thoughts, reactions, and questions about situations, ideas, actions, characters, settings, symbols, plot, theme, and any other elements of the work which interest you or mean something to you. Since it is important that you quickly write down ideas as they occur to you, don't be overly concerned with spelling, punctuation, usage, etc. Just think and write fast as you read.

You cannot be wrong in your responses, so take risks and be honest. Write about what you like or dislike, what seems confusing or unusual to you. Tell what you think something means. Look for examples of writing you particularly like or dislike and talk about them. Make predictions about what might happen later. Relate your personal experiences which connect with the plot, characters, or setting.

If you like, quote brief passages from the work and respond to them. Try to relate this work to another work you've read. How are they alike? How are they different?

Avoid plot summary. Simply read, think, and write your thoughts.

The following is a list of suggested sentence lead-ins.

1. I wonder what this means . . .

2. I really don't understand this part because . . .

3. I really like/dislike this idea because . . .

4. This character reminds me of somebody I know because . . .

5. This character reminds me of myself because . . .

6. This character is like (name of character) in (title of work) because . . .

7. I think this setting is important because . . .

8. This scene reminds me of a similar scene in (title of work) because . .   .

9. This part is very realistic/unrealistic because . . .

10. I like/dislike this writing because . . .

11. This section makes me think about/because . . .

12. This section is particularly effective because . . .

13. I think the relationship between _____ and _____ is interesting because . . .

14. The ideas here remind me of the ideas in (title of work) because . . .

15. I like/dislike (name of character) because . . .

16. This situation reminds me of a similar situation in my own ife. It happened when . . .

17. The character I most admire is _____ because . . .

18. If I were (name of character) at this point, I would . . .