



Reading Log - What to do

One of the easiest ways to keep track of and react to your reading is to keep a reading log. You can discover how you feel about the characters; you may gain insight about the theme or plot; and you can expand your overall enjoyment of the literature. As you read your book, stop and think back over about what you have read. Here are a few idea starters.

- To keep track of **events**, take notes after each chapter about what happens. Otherwise, you may have to reread too much to find a particular incident again if you want to refer to it.
- Is there anything that puzzles you? Write down some **questions** that you might want to research, discuss, etc.
- Make note of any **quotations** which strike you as important or memorable.
- Does your reading remind you of anything else you have read, heard, or seen on TV or at the movies? Jot down where the similarities or **connections** lie.
- Have you had any experiences similar to those in the book? Did you find yourself **identifying** closely with any of the **characters**? Record this.
- Do you find yourself really liking, or really loathing, one of the **characters**? What is it about them that makes you feel so strongly? Make notes you can add to later.
- Can you picture the locations and **settings**? Draw maps, plans, diagrams, drawings, in fact any doodle that helps you make sense of things.
- Now and again, try to **predict** what will happen next in the book. Use what you already know about the author, genre, and the characters to help you. Later, record how close you were and whether you are surprised by the outcome.
- Write down any **feelings** that you have about the book. Your reading log should help you make sense of your own ideas alongside those of the author.
- Think about if your **feelings** have changed after reading half the book, once you have finished the book? Would you read the book again or recommend it to anyone?
- What **emotions** does the book invoke: laughter, tears, smiles, anger, etc? Or, was the book just meaningless and boring? Record some of your reactions.
- Have you **changed** after reading the book?