

# Reading Analysis Journal

## List of Topics

Over the course of the Book Club Unit, students will complete the following tasks in order to prepare for meeting discussions. Students should have all tasks completed on time and in their journal.

On a fresh set of pages that are labeled with the chapters/pages for the reading, students will respond to the following prompts using visual representation and/or written words.

### Meeting #1

#### 1. Setting, main character, and plot (45 pts)

- a. Identify and briefly introduce the setting, main character, and plot of your novel. Include at least 3 quotes from your novel that support your journal response.
- b. Connections
  - i. To self: How can you draw a connection between yourself and the novel thus far?
  - ii. To world: How can you draw a connection between the novel and the real world thus far?
  - iii. To others: Find a peer to work with for the day. Discuss what is happening in your books so far. What connections can you draw between them? (i.e.. What is similar?)

### Meeting #2

#### 2. Conflicts and plot (20 pts)

- a. Describe the main conflict(s) that have or are occurring in your novel so far. Include at least 1 quote that helps to explain this conflict.
- b. Connections
  - i. To self: How can you draw a connection between yourself and the novel thus far?
  - ii. To world: How can you draw a connection between the novel and the real world thus far?
  - iii. To others: Find a peer to work with for the day. Discuss how your characters would react if they switched books and had to deal with each other's conflicts.

#### 3. Themes (40 pts)

- a. Identify a list of thematic concepts (at least 5) that are represented in your novel so far. Include at least (1) quote and (1) image to represent a thematic concept listed.
- b. Connections
  - i. To others: Identify a theme that is similar to your partner's novel and explain the similarities. Identify a theme that is different from your partner's novel and explain difference.

## Meeting #3

### 4. Antagonist(s) (55 pts)

- a. Identify the antagonist(s) in your novel. Characterize them using the STEAL method and use simple character traits to describe each category. Include at least three quotes to support your characterization as evidence.
- b. Connections
  - i. To self: Discuss whether you share any traits with the antagonist(s) of the novel.
  - ii. To world: Does the antagonist(s) remind you of any major villains (real or fictional) that exist in our world?
  - iii. To others: Discuss the antagonist of your novel with your partner. Do you think that your antagonist(s) would get along with theirs? Why or why not?

### 5. Figurative Language (35 pts)

- a. Identify three uses of figurative language in your novel so far. If you can't find any in today's reading section, go back to previous sections. Identify what kind of figurative language is used and include the quote from the novel.
- b. Connections:
  - i. To others: Talk to your reading partner about the figurative language used in their novel. Is there any that you found in common? What does the use of figurative language add to your reading experience? Does it make it harder to understand? Easier? Etc.

### 6. Mood (20 pts)

- a. What is the prevailing/overall mood of the novel so far? Include at least (1) quote from the novel to support your analysis of the mood.
- b. Connections:
  - i. To self: How does the mood of the novel compare to the mood you most often find yourself in? Is it the same? Opposite?
  - ii. To others: Describe your novel to your partner. Allow your partner to guess the mood. Did they get it correct? Why is important to understand the mood of a piece of literature?

## Meeting #4

### 7. Tone (30 pts)

- a. Identify the overarching tone of the narrator throughout the novel so far. Include at least (2) quotes from the novel to support your analysis of the tone.
  - i. To self: Does the tone of the novel match the attitude that you would have toward the events if you stood in the narrator/main character's place? Why or why not?
  - ii. To world: How would most people feel about the events of the novel?
  - iii. To others: Talk with your partner about the events and tone of your novel. If the narrator's were switched, would the tone change? If so, how and why?

### 8. Point of View (25 pts)

- a. Identify the point of view from which this novel is narrated. Then, identify the particular perspective that the novel is narrated. Include at least (1) quote from the novel.
- b. Connections

- i. To self: Do you share similar perspectives with the narrator about any topics in the novel/life? If so, explain them. If not, explain what your biggest difference is.
- ii. To others: Talk to your reading partner about the perspective of the narrator in their novel. Do they have similar patterns of thinking? Explain how and why they are similar or different. You can talk about hypothetical or real situations.

### 9. Themes (80 pts)

- a. Identify a list of thematic concepts (at least 10) that are represented in your novel so far. Include at least (1) quote and (1) image to represent a thematic concept listed. Then, compare your list now to the list that you created for journal entry three. What themes are still present? Identify them.
- b. Connections
  - i. To self: What is the theme that you feel most connected to? Why?
  - ii. To others: Identify a theme that is similar to your partner's novel and explain the similarities. Identify a theme that is different from your partner's novel and explain difference.

## Meeting #5

### 10. Protagonist Check-In (40 pts)

- a. Check back in with the protagonist(s) in your novel. Characterize them using the STEAL method and use simple character traits to describe each category. Include at least three quotes to support your characterization as evidence. Discuss how your character has changed from the beginning of the novel.
- b. Connections
  - i. To self: Discuss whether you share any traits with the antagonist(s) of the novel.
  - ii. To world: Does the antagonist(s) remind you of any major villains (real or fictional) that exist in our world?
  - iii. To others: Discuss the antagonist of your novel with your partner. Do you think that your antagonist(s) would get along with theirs? Why or why not?

### 11. Plot Check-In (25 pts)

- a. Create a plot arc in your journal that identifies all of the major events that have happened so far. Include one image that represents an events on your plot arc.
- b. Connections
  - i. To self: How can you draw a connection between yourself and the novel thus far?
  - ii. To world: How can you draw a connection between the novel and the real world thus far?
  - iii. To others: Find a peer to work with for the day. Discuss how your characters would react if they switched books and had to deal with each other's stories.

### 12. Symbolism (55 pts)

- a. In your journal, draw at least (4) symbols that represent major ideas/events/characters from your novel. Include a quote for each symbol. Explain what each symbol represents in your novel.
- b. Connections
  - i. To self: Which symbol do you feel most connected with? Why?
  - ii. To world: Are any of these symbols prevalent in our world today?
  - iii. To others: Find a peer to work with for the day. Ask your peer to guess what each symbol means. Then, draw any connections between the symbols in your two novels.

### 13. Meaningful Passage (20 pts)

- a. Select a passage from your novel section reading today that was very meaningful to you. Record the passage in your journal. Then, analyze the passage. What does the passage mean? Is there any figurative language used? What does it mean in the greater context of the novel. What makes the passage so impactful/meaningful?
- b. Connections
  - i. To world: Does this passage teach you anything about existing in our world?
  - ii. To others: Read your passage aloud to your partner. Record how they reacted to your passage. What did they think? How did they feel? Did they react the way that you expected? How did you react to their passage?

## Meeting #6

### 14. Plot Structure (15 pts)

- a. Think about the timeline of your novel. What category of plot structure does it fall under. Has there been any variations in the plot structure, such as flashforward or flashback? Why would the author write in this specific plot structure?
- b. Connections
  - i. To others: How does your plot structure compare to that of your partner's novel? Why would the author write in this specific plot structure?

### 15. Archetypes (25 pts)

- a. Identify the archetypes that represent the main characters of your novel. Provide quotes from the novel to support each archetype.
- b. Connections
  - i. To you: Which character archetype do you relate most to? Why?
  - ii. To world: Which character archetype is the most celebrated in our world?
  - iii. To others: What character archetypes do you and your reading partner find in common between your novels? Why would those archetypes be common?

### 16. Prediction (20 pts)

- a. You are nearing the end of your novel. Craft a well written prediction about how the novel will end. How will the conflict be resolved in your novel? What will happen to your protagonist and antagonist? Provide evidence from the text to support your prediction.
  - i. To others: Present the plot of your novel to a partner. Then, explain how you believe the conflict will be resolved. Reflect on that conflict resolution with your partner and record (1) how your partner predicts the conflict will be resolved/novel will end and (2) how you predict your partner's conflict will be resolved/novel will end.

### 17. Research (15 pts)

- a. Choose a real-world hot topic that is relevant to your novel. Research, identify, and read an article related to this topic. Summarize the article in your journal.
- b. Connections
  - i. To self: What is your take on the topic that you researched?

- ii. To others: Explain the topic and article that you selected to your partner. Record your partner's take on the topic. Record how your partner believes the people in the world of their novel would relate to/react to the topic.

## Meeting #7

### 18. Letter to Character (15 pts)

- a. Write a short letter to your main character offering them advice as they near the end of their journey in your novel.
- b. Connections
  - i. To self: Would you follow the advice that you offered your character if you were in their shoes?
  - ii. To others: Discuss your partner's novel. What advice would you offer to their selected character?

### 19. Meaningful Passage (20 pts)

- a. Select a passage from your novel section reading today that was very meaningful to you. Record the passage in your journal. Then, analyze the passage. What does the passage mean? Is there any figurative language used? What does it mean in the greater context of the novel. What makes the passage so impactful/meaningful?
- b. Connections
  - i. To world: Does this passage teach you anything about existing in our world?
  - ii. To others: Read your passage aloud to your partner. Record how they reacted to your passage. What did they think? How did they feel? Did they react the way that you expected? How did you react to their passage?

### 20. Wrap up/Review (30 pts)

- a. Create a five-point summary of your novel. Write about what happens at each of the major areas of the plot arc in your novel.
- b. Craft a paragraph that explains how your protagonist changed from the beginning to the end of your novel.
- c. Craft a paragraph that explains how your protagonist contributed to the plot of the story.
- d. Write about the overall theme of your novel. What was the moral lesson to be learned?
- e. Craft a paragraph that explains how your protagonist and antagonist contributed to the overall theme of your novel.
- f. Write a paragraph explaining why someone should read the novel you selected for your study.