**WEEKLY READING RESPONSE JOURNALS CORE**

**Assignment:** Every \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, you are to turn in a one page (single spaced) letter to Miss Wright describing and analyzing what you are reading outside of class. You must turn in your letter at the start of class. Late letters will be accepted for half credit. There will be time in class to work on reading your independent novels and write your letters, but you will also be expected to work on the assignment at home each night.

**Requirements:** Your letter must be written neatly and legibly. If you choose to write in pencil, please erase errors completely. If you choose to write in ink, please use a dark color such as blue or black. If you choose to type your letter, use the font Times New Roman, size 12, and print a copy to be turned in at the beginning of class on the due date.

In your letter, you must address the questions listed below. You may also choose to address other issues or concerns regarding your independent reading progress, as long as you write lengthy, quality paragraphs. If you are reading more than one book, choose the one you like best to write about, but tell me about the other books you are reading briefly.

**First Paragraph:** What are you currently reading and who is the author?  
What is the genre of the book and what page are you on?  
Is the book fiction or nonfiction?  
How are you enjoying the book so far?   
Make a connection between what you are reading and something you are currently studying in ELA, another subject in school, or something going on in your life or the news.

**Second Paragraph:** Summarize what is happening in the book right now.

**Third Paragraph:** Discuss your reading progress and any problems or struggles you might be facing. (See Below)  
What do you plan on reading next?

**Potential Reading Progress Topics**

Understanding the story  
Finding Natural Stopping Points  
Reading too slowly  
Remembering What Happened  
Skipping words or chunks of text  
Questioning What’s Going On  
Figuring out what words mean  
Keeping Focused on What You’re Reading  
 Figuring out the way that words sound  
Picturing or Visualizing What’s Going On  
Getting Lost in Tiny Details & Figuring Out What’s Important  
Stopping to Summarize

**Grading:** You can earn up to 10 points each week for your reading response. You will lose points if you fail to give quality effort to your writing, write illegibly, attempt to take up space by writing large letters/write to far from margins/etc., or fail to pay close attention to CUPS.

**Optional Guiding Questions (Use these questions to help you finish your page if you’re stuck!)**

**Fiction (made-up stories):**\*Which part is your favorite so far?\*What part or character didn’t you like?\*If you could change something that happened what would it be and why?\*Which character could you relate to the most? Why?\*Which is most important, the characters or the story? Why?\*Do you feel “challenged” or “excited” by the novel (Too difficult or too easy? Keeps you from sleeping because you want to find out what happens next?) Why or why not? Explain!\*Does this book remind you of another book? Why?  
\*Does something that happened in the story remind you of something that’s happened to you? Explain.\*What is the overall theme or message that the book tells you?  
\*What exactly makes this book fit into the genre that it does?

**Non-Fiction (including Biography):**\*What is the central idea of the book? What issues or ideas does the author explore?  
\*How do the issues affect your life or the lives of others?  
\*What evidence does the author use to support the central idea?  
\*What specific ideas, facts, or passages did you find interesting? Why? Explain!   
\* Do you feel “challenged” or “excited” by the book? Why or why not? (Too difficult or too easy? Keeps you from sleeping because you want to find out what happens next?)   
\*Does something that happened in the book remind you of something that’s happened to you? Explain.

**Poetry:  
*Note: Remember that reading poetry should work just like reading a book. Don’t stop at the ends of lines, continue reading and let the punctuation guide you in stopping (periods) or pausing (commas). Poetry wasn’t written to confuse you, it was written for the enjoyment of language, the sounds and images of our lives condensed into a small space.***\*Is this an anthology or a novel based poetry book?  
\*Which poems were your favorites? Why?   
\*Are there any interesting literary devices the poet uses? Think about what you know and the terms we’ve learned.\*Did you find any particular stanza or line interesting? Why?  
\* Do you feel “challenged” or “excited” by the book? Why or why not? (Too difficult or too easy? Keeps you from sleeping because you want to find out what happens next – OR you are sooo excited about the sounds of words that you hear them as you’re going to sleep?)   
\*Are the poems easy or difficult to understand? Why?  
\*Does a poem remind you of something that’s happened to you? Explain.