

Grade 8

Third Prompt

Response to Literature

Writing a Book Review

English/Language Arts Content Standards:

- 1.0 Writing Strategies
- 2.0 Writing Applications (Genres and Their Characteristics)
- 2.2 Write responses to literature:
 - a. Exhibit careful reading and insight in their interpretations.
 - b. Connect the student's own responses to the writer's techniques and to specific textual references.
 - c. Draw supported inferences about the effects of a literary work on its audience.
 - d. Support judgments through references to the text, other works, other authors, or to personal knowledge.

Writing Situation

Over the past year you were required to read several novels of your choosing in the reading class. After reading each novel, you have had ideas and opinions about the book. You may have even compared the books to others that you have read. (Allow an opportunity for discussion.)

Directions for Writing

Choose a book that you have read over the past school year. Express your thoughts and feelings about the novel by writing a book review. Support your opinion of the novel with examples and details from the book. Show how and why the book affected your thinking and feelings. Include the elements of literature in your review (i.e. plot, characterization, setting, and theme).

Writing and Convention Standards

For this task, students will write a book review that will:

- a. have a clearly stated thesis.
- b. develop an interpretation that reveals careful reading and insight.
- c. connect the student's own responses to the writer's techniques.
- d. draw supported inferences about the effects of a literary work on its audience.
- e. support judgments through references to the text.
- f. be organized with a clear beginning, middle, and ending.
- g. use the elements of literature correctly.
- h. show effective word choice.
- i. use appositives in sentences correctly.
- j. have subject-verb agreement.
- k. demonstrate grade level appropriate sentence structure, grammar, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling.

Resources

Reading/Language Arts Framework for California Public Schools, p. 178

Write Source 2000: Lesson Plans and Assessments, pp. 22-25

Write Source 2000, pp. 175-181, 343 – 344

Program Guide, pp. 205 – 207, 274, 343 – 346, 728 – 729

Grade 8 Third Prompt Rubric

Response to Literature Writing a Book Review

4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Fully addresses the prompt.▪ Is clearly organized in a logical sequence that develops an interpretation exhibiting careful reading, understanding, and insight.▪ Is a multi-paragraph composition with an introduction that establishes a controlling impression and has a coherent thesis, supporting details that use well-chosen examples and evidence from the text to develop and justify interpretations, and a clear and well-supported concluding paragraph.▪ Justifies interpretations through references to the text, other works, other authors, and/or to personal knowledge.▪ Connects the student's own responses to the writer's techniques and/or to specific textual references.▪ Establishes coherence within and among paragraphs through effective transitions, parallel structures, and similar writing techniques.▪ Has complete, coherent sentences that use a variety of patterns that include compound and complex sentences, using the active voice.▪ Has effectiveness and variety of word choice.▪ Has grade-level appropriate spelling, grammar, capitalization, and punctuation; contains few, if any, errors that do not interfere with understanding the writing.▪ Has fluid, legible handwriting.
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Responds to the prompt.▪ Is organized in a logical sequence that demonstrates an understanding of a literary work.▪ Is a multi-paragraph composition with an introduction that has a thesis, some details that use well-chosen examples and evidence from the text to develop and justify interpretations, and a conclusion.▪ Justifies interpretations through references to the text, other works, or to personal knowledge.▪ Connects the student's own responses to specific textual references.▪ Shows consistency within and among paragraphs through transitions, parallel structures, and similar writing techniques.▪ Has mainly complete sentences that use more than one pattern that include compound and complex sentences and may use the active voice.▪ Has some variety in word choice.▪ Has mainly grade-level appropriate spelling, grammar, capitalization, and punctuation; contains some errors that do not interfere with understanding the writing.▪ Has legible handwriting.

2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Attempts to respond to the prompt. ▪ May lack organization. ▪ May lack proper paragraphing and/or details and examples from the text. ▪ Attempts to justify interpretations through references to the text, other works, or to personal knowledge. ▪ May attempt to justify interpretations. ▪ Attempts to connect the student's own responses to specific textual references. ▪ May attempt to use transitions, parallel structures, and similar writing techniques. ▪ May have incomplete or incoherent sentences that may use only one pattern; the active voice is not present. ▪ May have little or no variety in word choice. ▪ May contain many errors in spelling, grammar, capitalization, and/or punctuation that may interfere with understanding the writing. ▪ Has handwriting that is difficult to read.
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ May not respond to the prompt. (May be off topic.) ▪ Lacks organization. ▪ Lacks paragraphs and/or does not include details or examples from the text. ▪ Does not attempt to justify interpretations. ▪ Does not attempt to connect the student's own responses. ▪ Contains no transitions and/or conjunctions to connect ideas. ▪ Has mainly incomplete or incoherent sentences. ▪ Contains one sentence pattern; the active voice is not present. ▪ Contains mainly basic sight words with no descriptive language. ▪ May contain frequent and numerous errors in spelling, grammar, capitalization, and punctuation that interfere with the understanding of the writing. ▪ Handwriting may be mostly illegible.
BP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Blank Paper

Grade 8

Third Prompt – Student Page

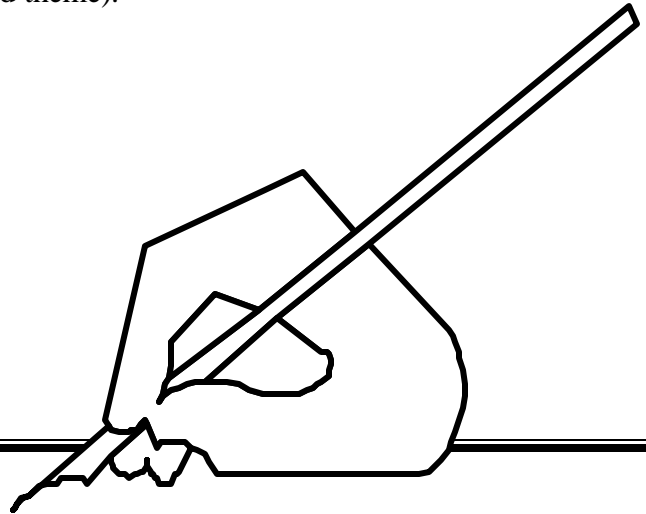
Response to Literature Writing a Book Review

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Writing and Convention Standards

For this task, you will write a book review that will:

- a. have a clearly stated thesis.
- b. develop an interpretation that reveals careful reading and insight.
- c. connect your own responses to the writer's techniques.
- d. draw supported inferences about the effects of a literary work on its audience.
- e. support judgments through references to the text.
- f. be organized with a clear beginning, middle, and ending.
- g. use the elements of literature correctly.
- h. show effective word choice.
- i. use appositives in sentences correctly.
- j. have subject-verb agreement.
- k. demonstrate grade level appropriate sentence structure, grammar, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling.

District Writing Sample Scoring Rationale

Third Prompt, Grade 8

Response to Literature

Writing a Book Review

Rubric Score Point: 4 anchor

Characteristics that make the paper an anchor 4:

- a. Fully addresses the prompt with a multi-paragraph composition which is clearly organized.
- b. Contains a coherent thesis with supporting details that include well-chosen examples from text.
- c. Has a variety of sentence structure that includes effective word choice.
- d. Uses effective transitions through out the paper.
- e. Has a variety of word choice.
- f. Addresses literary elements.
- g. Does not justify interpretations through references to the text, other works, other authors, or personal knowledge.

Additional instructional steps to support this writer:

- a. Teaching the student how to justify interpretations

Teacher Notes:

English

March 7, 2001
Period 81

Insights to an Orphan Girl

Anne of Green Gables was truly an inspirational novel. The way Anne expresses herself and touches the lives around her is extremely significant. Even though she is an orphan, she is eventually accepted as a person and is loved by everyone in her life. Although the story is fiction, the setting and the characters of the novel are believable. As a result of this realistic fiction, it is easy to become caught up in the emotion and feelings of the story. This essay will explain why this novel is considered excellent by many of those who have read it.

Anne Shirley is the heroine of this novel and what a remarkable character she is. She is a typical redhead precocious child who, on every occasion, lets everyone know she hates her hair. Anne

also has a wild imagination. This imagination is one that nobody has ever encountered. One example of this wild imagination is the fact that Anne had an imaginary friend when she was younger. The existence of this friend could be as a result of her being an orphan and having been alone most of her early years. Another important part of Anne's life was her home.

Anne came to live in a home called Green Gables in the town of Avonlea. A brother and sister, Matthew and Marilla Cuthbert, own Green Gables. They wanted a young boy to assist Matthew on the farm. A friend of theirs mistakenly asks the orphanage to send a girl to them. When Anne arrives, Matthew is surprised and Marilla is upset. She wants to send Anne back immediately, but Matthew does not agree. This begins a series of many good times and trials for Anne at her new home. Avonlea is where she makes friends, attends school, and begins a

new life.

The main theme behind Anne of Green Gables is the adjustment of an orphan girl sent to live with complete strangers. The story explains how she grows to love those around her and how she gains their love in return. Her experiences are varied and full of emotion. She quickly becomes part of the town and a member of the Cuthbert family.

Anne of Green Gables is a treasured novel. Anne's character is one of importance and imagination. She grows a great deal through the course of this novel and she learns to respect others. However that is not how things began. The author L. M. Montgomery, is able to capture the reader's interest early and by the end of the story, one actually feels as though they are a part of this small community.

District Writing Sample Scoring Rationale

Third Prompt, Grade 8

Response to Literature

Writing a Book Review

Rubric Score Point: 4 low

Characteristics that make the paper a low 4:

- a. Is clearly organized in a logical sequence that develops an interpretation exhibiting careful reading, understanding, and insight.
- b. Connects the student's own responses to the writer's techniques and/or to specific textual references.
- c. Has complete, coherent sentences using the active voice.
- d. Has effectiveness and variety of word choice.
- e. Addresses literary elements.
- f. Contains some errors that do not interfere with understanding the writing.

Additional instructional steps for the writer's growth would include:

- a. Teaching the student some techniques for proofreading, especially for spelling errors.
- b. Modeling for the student how to polish an introductory paragraph.

Teacher Notes:

In this review of Brian Jacques, Redwall, Jessica Pinales focuses on the adventure the protagonist will have to face to save his home.

Imagine a peaceful, quiet place, free from war, hate, and worry. That is the setting of Redwall abbey. It is surrounded by a vast forest full of life and mystery. In the abbey every thing needed for living comfortably is provided. There is a nice lake, beautiful orchard and lots of playing room for the young or dibbuns. The setting is also the surrounding Mossflower Forest, where there is danger and beauty.

The characters of this novel are some woodland animals with humanlike characteristics. The protagonist takes place as a simple, abbey mouse with the blood of warriors flowing through him, and the antagonist is a rat who is out to capture and take over Redwall abbey. The characters are stereotyped, all the soft friendly animals are good, while the ugly, mean tempered are evil.

Conflict is a major key to the plot in this novel. The protagonist faces many conflicts on his quest to save his home. He will face man vs. man, man vs. nature, and man vs. self to complete his task.

This is a great novel. Sitting in my room, devouring each page with gusto I stay for two hours. Each chapter is better than the last. Chapter after chapter of adventure and suspense. I recommend this book to anyone who loves a book filled with love, courage, strength, and boldness. This is one of the best books I've read all year.

District Writing Sample Scoring Rationale

Third Prompt, Grade 8

Response to Literature

Writing a Book Review

Rubric Score Point: 3 high

Characteristics that make the paper a high 3:

- a. Responds to the prompt in a logical sequence demonstrating an understanding of the literary work.
- b. Contains multi-paragraphs with an introduction that includes a thesis and a conclusion.
- c. Connects responses to specific textual references.
- d. Includes the elements of literature i.e., characterization and setting using examples in her review.
- e. Student attempts to empathize with the main character, (good insight) while admitting that she can never fully understand what he was feeling.
- f. Lacks variety in word choice.

Additional instructional steps for the writer's growth would include:

- a. Demonstrating how to improve word choice variety.
- b. Modeling how to develop more complex sentences.

Teacher Notes:

Because of Romek By David Faber Review Written By

"Because of Romek" is the memoir of a Holocaust survivor. It is set in the 1930's to middle 1940's; during Hitler's reign of terror. The main character is David Faber. David is a teenager struggling to survive the Holocaust while in concentration camps. My heart goes out to him in this real life, true story, he is so young and he not only watches his whole family die but also witnesses it everyday.

Though, I can't relate to what he went through I admire his courage and determination. As a young boy he had to go through so much. Also, the fact that this is a true story gives me more admiration for him. After reading this story I have greater determination in my daily life and more love for my family.

I really enjoyed this book. My favorite part was every time he wanted to give up he held his determination to live. I didn't favor the part that describes the killings. If I could change any part in the book it would be the part where his family dies. He survived so long by himself.

I recommend this book. It is very good in detail. It gives you a better understanding of what went on.

District Writing Sample Scoring Rationale

Third Prompt, Grade 8

Response to Literature

Writing a Book Review

Rubric Score Point: 3 anchor

Characteristics that make the paper an anchor 3:

- a. Responds to the prompt in a logical sequence demonstrating an understanding of the literary work.
- b. Is a multi-paragraph composition with a good lead that has a thesis, details and well-chosen examples, and a good conclusion.
- c. Uses complete sentences with more than one sentence pattern including compound and complex sentences.
- d. Connects student's own responses to specific textual references.
- e. Contains few if any, grammatical or spelling errors.
- f. Is a review that strongly encourages others to read the novel.
- g. Includes a summary of the novel and not much insight into the elements of literature i.e., characterization, plot, and setting.

Additional instructional steps for the writer's growth would include:

- a. Instructing the student to focus on the various elements of literature in writing a review.
- b. Instructing the student on using a thesaurus to select a more powerful choice of words.

Teacher Notes:

Period #3

March 7, 2001

Harbin

Essay

The most fabulous novel I have ever read is called Say Goodnight, Gracie. It is by Julie Reece Deaver. I loved it so much that once I finished reading it, I re-read it again to Katie, my sister. She liked it also, but I think that she would enjoy it more if she was older since it is a 7.7 reading level. This book was funny, exciting, and very sad, which made for a great literary work.

In the beginning, this book was very funny. It was about this boy named Jimmy and his best friend Morgan. Jimmy was always playing practical jokes on Morgan, some of which were funny and others which were down right mean. An example of one of his practical jokes was when Morgan forgot her train ticket and when the conductor came around to collect the tickets she asked her friend, Jimmy, to buy her another one and he acted like he didn't know her. I would have killed my friend if they would have done that to me.

This novel was so exciting that I read it in one day. I just couldn't put it down. Every chapter held a new problem for Morgan and Jimmy to overcome. Jimmy's main obstacle was trying to become a professional dancer. Morgan's obstacle (other than Jimmy's death) was to become a better actor. These obstacles

along with many others made this book exciting.

The only bad thing about this literary work was when Jimmy died. I think I cried for at least half of this book. It really touched my heart. I now appreciate my friends and family more because you never know when someone will be gone. His story reminded me of when my friend was killed by a drunk driver, which is exactly how Jimmy died. It makes me mad that just because some people have to make stupid choices, innocent people have to pay the price. My life experience and this book will encourage me not to drink and drive...

So, I hope you are interested in this book. It has parts in it for everyone. Whether you like funny, exciting, or sad books you will still love this novel. I would recommend this literary work to anyone in the seventh grade or higher. It is a wonderful book, and I am very happy that I had a chance to read it.

District Writing Sample Scoring Rationale

Third Prompt, Grade 8

Response to Literature

Writing a Book Review

Rubric Score Point: 3 low

Characteristics that make the paper a low 3:

- a. Responds to the prompt in a logical sequence demonstrating an understanding of the literary work.
- b. Contains a multi-paragraph (although uses incomplete paragraphs) composition with a lead (somewhat weak) containing a thesis, details, examples, and evidence from the text to justify interpretation, and a conclusion.
- c. Connects student responses to specific textual references.
- d. Has mainly complete sentences and grade-level appropriate spelling, grammar, capitalization, and punctuation.
- e. Shows consistency and parallel structure using transitions, although could use more variety in or more subtle transitions.
- f. Lacks a strong conclusion – no real recommendation for novel.

Additional instructional steps for the writer's growth would include:

- a. Demonstrating how to develop an effective conclusion – the last thing the reader will remember of the writing.
- b. Instructing the use of a thesaurus for word choice variety.
- c. Modeling a variety in transitions – not “the first reason”, “another reason”, and “and finally”.

Teacher Notes:

My Brother Sam Is Dead
was a good book because it taught me alot about war, showed me that Families can stick together, and it showed me how di war affects people.

This book took place during the Revolutionary war. It was about a young boy named Tim trying to keep peace in his family. Tim's father is a "tory" and Tim's older brother is a "rebel" (he wants America to be independant) Tim and his mother are learning the harsh reality of war, famine, and death.

The one reason I liked this book was because it taught me alot about the Revolutionary war.

This book taught me things I have never known about war. Such as a "tory". A tory is a person who was loyal to England and their king. And I also didn't know that the soldiers would get so hungry they would kill cows and other livestock that didn't belong to them just to survive.

Another reason why I enjoyed this book was because it showed me how strong a families love for each other was and that it could keep the family together no matter what comes in the way even death. This family endured two deaths and almost losing another.

And finally this book showed me how a war affects people. It tears down peoples self-esteem and ruins families and lives.

I think the moral of this story was that if you stick together you can achieve anything.

District Writing Sample Scoring Rationale

Third Prompt, Grade 8

Response to Literature

Writing a Book Review

Rubric Score Point: 2 high

Characteristics that make the paper a high 2:

- a. Attempts to respond to the prompt.
- b. Does not connect own responses to specific textual references.
- c. Attempt to address literary elements.
- d. Lacks sentence complexity.
- e. Has mainly grade-level appropriate spelling, grammar, capitalization, and punctuation.

Additional instructional steps for the writer's growth would include:

- a. Teaching the student the definition of literary terms and modeling how to identify the terms in a piece of literature.
- b. Conferencing with the student to differentiate between a summary and the elements and structure of a response to literature.

Teacher Notes:

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I think the moral of this story was that if you stick together you can achieve anything.

District Writing Sample Scoring Rationale

Third Prompt, Grade 8

Response to Literature

Writing a Book Review

Rubric Score Point: 2 anchor

Characteristics that make the paper an anchor 2:

- a. Attempts to respond to the prompt.
- b. Attempts to justify interpretations through references to the text.
- c. Attempts to use transitions.
- d. Contains many errors in spelling, grammar, capitalization, and punctuation. that may interfere with understanding the writing.

Additional instructional steps for the writer's growth would include:

- a. Instructing the student on the rules for using quotation marks and then modeling how to apply those rules when writing.
- b. Teaching the student basic spelling rules and patterns, especially commonly confused words (to, too, two) to increase his/her personal dictionary.

Teacher Notes:

Book Review

Harry Potter and the Prisoner of
Azkaban

03-27-3

pgs: 2-8

My opinion of Harry Potter 3 was that it was boring and long. The reason I say this is because they made some stuff that you could just skip and move to more interesting things. For example, I told my uncle it was not my fault what happened to my aunt but they forced me in my room and locked the door and kept in there for a week. When they just could've said my uncle argued with me and locked me in my room.

I also thought it was kind of dull because on many parts you had to wait and wait and wait until finally there is something exciting happening. For example, I ran away from home and I wanted to go back to England to find my friends then a bus appeared and asked if I needed a ride I hope in and told him where I wanted to go, finally here is the exciting part I was reading the newspaper and I was reading an article of a criminal who killed a lot of people in one with one curse it showed his

picture it was very frightening
and when I finished the article
it said keep a lookout he's on
the loose, later on like in hour
later the bus stopped to pick up a
person and when I saw his face
it looked just like the guy in
the newspaper a chill went down
my back as he passed by me
looking into my eyes.

See what I mean it is too long
of a story they stretch too much.

So if you want horror it is a good
book to read.
But if it is adventure you want maybe
you will not enjoy this.

District Writing Sample Scoring Rationale

Third Prompt, Grade 8

Response to Literature

Writing a Book Review

Rubric Score Point: 2 low

Characteristics that make the paper a low 2:

- a. Responds to the prompt by giving opinion.
- b. Lacks multiple paragraphs.
- c. Lacks justification of opinion.
- d. Fails to connect own responses to specific textual references.
- e. Contains some errors in spelling

Additional instructional steps for the writer's growth would include:

- a. Teaching pre-writing structure and techniques to ensure all elements of the prompts are addressed.
- b. Practicing correct spelling and grammar usage by completing DOL daily.

Teacher Notes:

Response to Literature

Esperanza Rising is one of the best books that I have read this past year. I would recommend that any one who hasn't read this book, go and read this book. I would like to tell you that from my experience with this book has made me look on the brighter things in life, because things can change on you when you least expect it. When you get the chance to read this book for your self you should know that you are going to have emotions that you never thought you would have by reading a book.

When I first read this book I disliked it for no reason at all. When I finally read it, I began to like it even more. I never liked it in parts but as a whole, the beginning it tells us where they live in Aguascalientes, Mexico, it also describes the way that she lives. Esperanza is a rich girl with servants, fancy dresses, and a beautiful home, and it also tells us that a sudden tragedy has struck the family also. In the middle you read that they are forced to leave Mexico & go to California to settle in a Mexican farm labor camp. Last but not least you read how they cope with the hard and the bad times.

District Writing Sample Scoring Rationale

Third Prompt, Grade 8

Response to Literature

Writing a Book Review

Rubric Score Point: 1 high

Characteristics that make the paper a high 1:

- a. Responds to prompt by summarizing novel.
- b. Lacks clear organization of ideas.
- c. Requires proper paragraph structure to include main idea followed by details.
- d. Attempts to address characterization, setting, and theme.
- e. Occasionally uses transitions to connect ideas.
- f. Does not respond to prompt using examples from text to support ideas.

Additional instructional steps for the writer's growth would include:

- a. Conferencing with the student to differentiate between a summary and the elements and structure of a response to literature.
- b. Teaching pre-writing structures and techniques to avoid the rambling of ideas.
- c. Modeling how to write a topic sentence with supporting details.

Teacher Notes:

This book review is about a story I read, that was a mystery. The book is called The Name of the Crime was Murder. The Author of the story is Joan Leon Nixon.

The plot to this story was the main characters Uncle-in-law trying to blackmail these famous people. Now to me, that was normal. People always try to blackmail famous people for money. Anyway, but the Uncle-in-law is blackmailing his own wife too. Now that is just hideous. So what he does is brings them to his mansion and tells them that they have to play a game. And they were like "What?" So when he told them what the prize was, which was a manuscript that held everybody's dark secrets on it, they all had to say yes to play. So basically if they didn't play, their careers

were turned. So then basically he gives out clues where to find it. But the clues were basically riddles. So then when one night everybody goes to bed. The next morning, they find the Uncle-9n-10w dead. So now they have a killer in the house. So after all this, the main character figures out all the clues, then finds the manuscript. After all this, the murderer gets the manuscript and burns it, and they all went on with their lives. And later on the murderer turns herself in.

The conclusion to this book review is that somebody tries to blackmail some famous people. Then he gets killed. And that the main character figures out all the clues, and finds the manuscript. Then the murderer takes a Sucky from her and burns it. Then they all go on with their careers. And the murderer turns herself in.

District Writing Sample Scoring Rationale

Third Prompt, Grade 8

Response to Literature

Writing a Book Review

Rubric Score Point: 1 anchor

Characteristics that make the paper an anchor 1:

- a. Essay is one run-on sentence with a paragraph containing mainly basic sight words with no descriptive language.
- b. Transitions are not used to connect thoughts.
- c. Includes frequent spelling errors.
- d. Doesn't use examples from the text.
- e. Includes proper punctuation of the title.
- f. Expresses feelings towards the novel.
- g. Has errors in punctuation and capitalization.

Additional instructional steps to support this writer:

- a. Teaching the rules for proper capitalization of the proper pronoun, "I".
- b. Developing a personal vocabulary/dictionary composition notebook of frequently used words.
- c. Reviewing the rules of capitalization.

Teacher Notes:

Essay

The book that i like is Holes by lois sachar why cause he has no reason to be going to Boot camp why he gets scared and dispared from home and also at the same time he meets a boy who cant read or write and he teaches him and his name is hector also when they get lost they have to find there way back to there camp this at the last they go home But just hector and the boy but hector gets to be the boyz New Brother why he dont have no family also they adopt him

the end