**Reading Workshop Journal Questions**

Directions: Choose one question per week and write an entry of at least one paragraph using evidence from your book and explaining your thinking.

**First Thoughts**

The following questions may be good questions at the beginning of your reading.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Journal Questions** |
|  | How do you feel about the main characters? |
|  | What interests you so far….or turns you off? |
|  | After reading part of the text, which events or actions are unclear to you? How so? |
|  | How do you feel about the characters now? |
|  | What drew you in to the story? |
|  | What confuses, concerns, or angers you so far? |
|  | How is the story similar to or different from experiences in your own life? |
|  | If I were (name of character) at this point, I would…. |

**More “In Depth” Thinking**

At the midway point of the story, you have a better idea of the character and the problem. Explain your thinking with the following question choices.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Journal Questions** |
|  | After getting part of the way through, what is happening? |
|  | What kind of a person is (character name)? |
|  | What words, actions, and events are important? |
|  | Does the main character(s) react to important events as you would? |
|  | What bothers you, or confuses you? |
|  | Write a letter to a character or from one character to another |
|  | Write a poem or song from or about one of the characters |
|  | What are your favorite lines or quotes? Copy them into your journal and tell why you like them. |

**Final Thoughts**

Readers often have strong reactions at the end of a book. Use the following question choices to explain your thinking.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Journal Questions** |
|  | How do you react to the ending? |
|  | What do you like the most or the least about this book? |
|  | What character did you identify with or feel the most sympathy? What is it about the character that made you feel this way? |
|  | Resolution: Did the story end the way you expected it to? |
|  | Reflect back on the story. What clues did the author offer along the way to prepare you for the ending? Did you recognize these clues as important to the story when you were reading it? |
|  | What is the overall message or theme of the story? Give examples of how the author makes you think of this theme as you read. |
|  | Style: Is there anything that seems to make this particular author's work unique? |
|  | Do any of the characters change during the story? Tell how. |
|  | What was the saddest / funniest event in the story? |
|  | If your book took place in a different setting, how would that change the story? Why? |
|  | Were you able to predict the ending? Give examples that show why you made that prediction |
|  | What might happen if the story continued? |