

Writing Review Packet

Grades 3-5



Response to Literature

Response to Literature Essays involve all varieties of reading and literature including:

- Novel (Example: The Hobbit- Who was your favorite character and why? How was evil portrayed?)
- Biography (Example: Davy Crocket-What was his contribution to early America? What are the characteristics you admire in this man? Why?)
- Tall Tale (Example: Paul Bunyan-What are the exaggerations the author uses in his story?)
- Poetry (Example: How does that poem makes you feel? What is the author trying to communicate.)
- Short Story (Example: Compare a character from the story with someone you know.)
- Fable (Example: The Ant and the Grasshopper-Change the ending of the story)
- Mythology (Example: How the Camel Got His Hump-Take this and spin off into your own animal and how that animal got his skin, teeth, roar, etc)

As you can see, this type of writing has no limits. When writing this type of paper, consider the following:

1. Read and re-read the literature or text
2. Get your overall " Gut feeling" as to what you have read
3. Read the prompt and *think through* what is being asked
4. Create an interesting thesis about the text. Make sure you are addressing the prompt or the question asked.
5. Engage the reader's attention in your introduction
6. **VERY IMPORTANT!** Provide textual evidence to support your thesis
7. Use interesting details to support your ideas
8. Correctly use the conventions of the English language

Remember, this is *your thoughts and opinion.*

Your response is appropriate as long as you support your thesis with details from the literature.

Response Outline

First Paragraph

- Think of a HOOK to engage your reader;
- State your thesis after studying the prompt;
- Include the title and author if available;
- A short summary of the text can be used here or included in a paragraph of its own (second paragraph if needed.)

Second/Third/Fourth Paragraph (depending on age and ability of your child)

- Topic sentence that supports the thesis above
- Include supporting details from the text
- Be creative and descriptive (remember this is not a summary!)
- This style of writing is often your opinion “so go for it” but you must justify your response with the actual text.

Closing Paragraph

- Summarize what you have already stated
- Look back to your opening paragraph and either answer the question you asked or reword your thesis thought or statement.
- End the writing with something catchy.

***Drinking Fountain* by Marchette Chute**

When I climb up
To get a drink,
It doesn't work
The way you'd think.

I turn it up,
The water goes
And hits me right
Upon the nose.



I turn it down
To make it small
And don't get any
Drink at all.

***Drinking Fountain* by Marchette Chute**

Response to Literature Prompt: Describe something that you did that didn't work out the way you thought it was going to. Explain how what you experienced is similar to what the author describes.

***Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll**



Alice was beginning to get very tired of sitting by her sister on the bank, and of having nothing to do: once or twice she had peeped into the book her sister was reading, but it had no pictures or conversations in it, 'and what is the use of a book,' thought Alice 'without pictures or conversation?'

So she was considering in her own mind (as well as she could, for the hot day made her feel very sleepy and stupid), whether the pleasure of making a daisy-chain would be worth the trouble of getting up and picking the daisies, when suddenly a White Rabbit with pink eyes ran close by her.

There was nothing so VERY remarkable in that; nor did Alice think it so VERY much out of the way to hear the Rabbit say to itself, 'Oh dear! Oh dear! I shall be late!' (when she thought it over afterwards, it occurred to her that she ought to have wondered at this, but at the time it all seemed quite natural); but when the Rabbit actually **TOOK A WATCH OUT OF ITS WAISTCOAT-POCKET**, and looked at it, and then hurried on, Alice started to her feet, for it flashed across her mind that she had never before seen a rabbit with either a waistcoat-pocket, or a watch to take out of it, and burning with curiosity, she ran across the field after it, and fortunately was just in time to see it pop down a large rabbit-hole under the hedge.








In another moment down went Alice after it, never once considering how in the world she was to get out again.

***Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll**

Response to Literature: "Look before you leap" is a proverb that encourages you to carefully consider the consequences of an action **BEFORE** you take action. Does this describe Alice's action? Explain what you have learned about Alice through the story thus far that might have led up to her impulsive dive down the rabbit hole.



Summary Writing

-  The purpose of writing a summary is to paraphrase in your own words the main idea(s) and significant details of a selection.
-  You must read the selection a few times for complete understanding of the written work.
-  It is often helpful to underline or highlight the major/main thoughts in preparation for writing your summary.
-  A well-written summary maintains the author's point of view and sticks to the same sequence of ideas, information, and events as presented in the reading selection.
-  It is important that the writer use his/her own words to summarize the article.
-  An introduction and a conclusion are essential for writing a summary.
-  The summary should only explain the author's point of view (Not the students).

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Summary Outline Format

Paragraph I: Introduction to the general topic of the assigned selection.

Include the author's name and title of article. A hook such as a question, quote, or interesting fact (from the article) opens a good introduction.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Paragraph II: (III. and IV. For 4th- 8th grade) - Restatement (paraphrase) of the main points

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Closing Paragraph: Conclusion - bring together the general and specific ideas.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

For Summary Writing Practice:



Tap dance is a form of dance characterized by using the sound of one's tap shoes hitting the floor as a percussive instrument. As such, it is also commonly considered to be a form of music. Two major variations on tap dance exist: rhythm (Jazz) tap and Broadway tap. Broadway tap focuses more on the dance. It is widely performed as a part of musical theater. Rhythm tap focuses more on musicality, and practitioners consider themselves to be a part of the Jazz tradition.

The sound is made by shoes with a metal "tap" on the heel and toe. Tap shoes can be bought at most dance shops. There are different brands of shoes which sometimes differ in the way they sound.

"Soft-Shoe" is a rhythm form of tap dancing that doesn't require special shoes, and while rhythm is generated by tapping of the feet, it also uses sliding of the feet (even sometimes using scattered sand on the stage to enhance the sound of the performer's sliding feet) more often than modern rhythm tap. It preceded what is currently considered to be modern tap, but has since declined in popularity.

Tap dancers make frequent use of syncopation. Choreography typically starts on the eighth or first beat/count. Another aspect of tap dancing is improvisation. This can either be done with music and follow the beats provided or without musical accompaniment, also known as a cappella dancing.

Common tap steps include the shuffle, shuffle ball change, flap, flap heel, cramproll, buffalo, Maxi Ford, single and double pullbacks, wings, Cincinnati, the shim sham shimmy (also called the Lindy), Irish, Waltz Clog, the paddle roll, the paradiddle, stomp, brushes, scuffs, riffs, and single and double toe punches, hot steps, heel clicks, single, double, triple, and double-triple time steps, over-the-tops, military time step, New Yorkers, and chugs. In advanced tap dancing, basic steps are often combined together to create new steps. Timesteps are widely used in tap and can vary in different areas. These consist of a rhythm that is changed to make new timesteps by adding or removing steps.

Tap dancing has the distinction of being a uniquely American art form, and its influence spreads far and wide across American performance art culture. From Fred Astaire to the Hooper Club in Harlem to the 39th Annual Grammy Awards, tap has enthralled audiences for most of the 20th century and continues to do so in the current one.

What is a Fictional Narrative?

Simply put: fictional narrative writing tells an invented story.

The most essential elements in a fictional narrative story are:

1. An established plot, believable characters and a vivid setting.
2. An organized sequence of important events and a conclusion (usually 3-5 paragraphs long in all).
3. One key event that occurs which include either a problem, crisis, action, or adventure.
4. Vivid, descriptive language and details (Can your reader visualize the event?). Upper grades should use such strategies as dialogue, suspense, movement, and expressions.



Some helpful hints:

- Remember, you are writing to entertain the reader.
- The first paragraph should grab the reader's attention, set the stage and introduce the characters. Does the reader want to read on?
- The middle paragraph(s) should include events leading up to (and including) the big event, action or climax .
- The last paragraph should be the conclusion or resolution. What happened in the end? Don't "drop the ball" here!
- Include a variety of sentence types and transitional words
- Make sure you followed the writing prompt or assignment.
- Re-read it aloud at least once before it is graded. You will catch a few mistakes and maybe even think of some great vivid details or descriptions to add to your story.

Remember, writing is a process that begins with the organization of ideas, writing, editing, rewriting and finally a finished product.

Students will need your help at each step to create a great story!

What is a Non-Fiction Narrative?

Simply put, non-fiction narrative writing tells a story about a real experience.

The most essential elements in a non-fiction narrative story are:

1. Well-developed characters and setting
2. A real event that occurred which included either a problem, crisis, action, or adventure.
3. An organized sequence of important events and a conclusion (usually 3-5 paragraphs long in all)
4. Vivid, descriptive language and details

Remember:

A narrative essay tells a story and creates a picture in the reader's mind with

- details,
- plots, and
- characters.

A narrative essay:

- recreates a previously experienced event (personal narrative),
- describes the experience of another person (third person narrative), or
- tells an "invented" experience (fictional narrative).

A narrative essay tells a story, but also provides a central idea or teaches a lesson.

Steps to write Narrative Essays:

- **Determine the event that you have decided to describe in your essay**
- **Spend time thinking about the details of your experience & noting them down.**
- **Create a basic essay outline that lays out the parts of your narrative.**
- **With the help of your outline, write about every part of your experience.**

Narrative Practice Prompt:



1. You are getting ready for a holiday (Halloween, Valentines' Day, the 4th of July). Tell about how you felt before the holiday describing what you did to get ready. Then share your experiences and your feelings on that special day. What made it memorable? Then share what it was like as the day ended and the days that followed. Write a narrative paper describing the

before, during and after of a special holiday for you and your family.

2. What would happen if one morning everyone woke up and found out that their pets could talk? Imagine what would happen if your pet could talk. Think about the things that your pet would like or dislike about its life, and the things that would be important to your pet! Write a story about the day you spent with your talking pet. Remember to use vivid verbs and interesting adjectives in your story.



3. Think of a time that you really enjoyed spending with a good friend. What was it about the time that has created a good memory for you? Write a narrative paper describing all the wonderful feelings and things you did. Start at the beginning of the special time you spent with your friend describing in order what happened. Tell about the events, the places, other people, and the feelings you experienced. Write this paper with good descriptive language so the reader can actually imagine watching this great time.