

Creative Writing Summer Homework 2023

Grade 8 Techniques II

Due August 17, 2023

50 points

Reading journal

12 font, single-spaced, with headers including your last name, "RJ" and the page.

The reading journal contains evidence of what you read (titles, authors, book or publication titles if you are reading a book of essays, a book chapter, or an article in a newspaper, for example) and serves as a place to collect drafts and ideas of what you are writing and thinking about writing during the summer.

The reading journal (RJ) contains quotes that illustrate what you notice about style, experimentation, methods of accomplishing specific literary tasks (characterization, time shift, setting, theme, imagery etc.). The reading journal should demonstrate your observations and reactions in careful, thoughtful, original prose. A student once created a magnificent poem from lines in their reading journal.

Finally, the reading journal should include the drafts or pieces of at least two stories, two poems and other work that reflects your particular interests. This might be panels for a graphic novel, a podcast script, the first scene of a play, a movie pitch, etc. Use your reading (above) to experiment with style, formatting, subject matter, etc. Use research to develop the complexity and specificity of your ideas.

In your RJ, I want you to keep in mind the reasons that human beings create, refine and share works of art. Why are these cultural artifacts part of our world? How do they connect us? What do they help us discover? Use these pieces of language (world, connect, discovery) explicitly in your analysis. Actively seek and articulate the insights that enduring and celebrated writing contains.

Read at least four short stories or eight flash fiction stories that have been selected for special notice (for example, published in a Best Short Stories/Best Nonfiction anthology, awarded a literary prize, etc.). Identify one that you particularly admire, because it achieves an effect you have never successfully achieved or have never tried to achieve or never thought to achieve. Write about all of this, with examples, in your RJ. Do not choose stories you have already read or that are included in high school textbooks or reading lists. Do research to find new reading.

Poetry

Read multiple poems by at least four poets whose work has been selected for special notice (literary prize, for example). Choose poets you have not read, and who do not appear in high school textbooks or reading lists. Do research. Make discoveries. Document your searches and your reading in your RJ.

Read at least one interview by each of four of the fiction writers/poets you have read for the tasks above. Four interviews total. Document what you read (you can also listen to interviews) or hear with quotes and your responses. Write what you are learning, what you are thinking about that is new.

Journalism

Read articles from reputable news sources at least once a week. These should be about a diverse range of subjects, leaning toward subjects you know least about, whether that be architecture, science, health, design, theater, education, economics, politics, etc. Make entries in your RJ with interesting quotes, facts, vocabulary. Be sure to include the source, title, and writer.

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I have read the summer homework requirements due August 17, 2023.

Student signature

Date

Parent signature

Date