

February 15, 2021

Dear Class,

I am enjoying the book *A Long Way from Chicago* written by Richard Peck. Joey and Mary Alice are the main characters. In this book they are visiting their grandma who lives in a very small town. The book tells about the children's adventures when they visit each summer as they are growing up.

Joey and Mary Alice visiting their grandma every summer help me make a personal connection to the book. Every summer since I was 9, I would visit my Great Aunt at her home. Many of these summers, I have gone by myself just like Joey and Mary Alice do.

I think grandma's character is great. She always does very creative things. One of my favorite chapters is "Things with Wings." I think it's funny with grandma makes everyone in town think that she has Abraham Lincoln's hat and Mary Todd Lincoln's quilt. It was very sneaky of her to use these items to help Effie Wilcox get her house back.

I think that grandma's way of speaking also adds a lot to the book. When grandma talks, she is very blunt and critical of others. One example is when she says, "Never trust an ugly woman." Her speech helps me picture what she is like. I think it's also funny when she says Shotgum Cheatham "couldn't hit a barn wall from the inside." her descriptions are very vivid.

I am enjoying reading this book. I can't wait to read the sequel, *A Year Down Yonder*. I hope you are enjoying your books too!

Love,
Mrs. Henry

Tell me WHY!

The evidence is your proof.

because...

for instance...

for example...

according to what I read...

the author said...

on page ___ it said...

from the book I know that...

Tell me WHY!

The evidence is your proof.

because...

for instance...

for example...

according to what I read...

the author said...

on page ___ it said...

from the book I know that...

A response to your reading might include...

- This reminded me of
- I made a connection with
- I was surprised by
- I can't believe
- I don't understand why
- It upsets me when
- I didn't like when
- I wonder
- I laughed when
- This part made me anxious
- This made me think of
- I began to understand
- This was an important part of the book because
- It was interesting when
- When I finished the book I felt
- If I could talk with the author I would say / ask
- After the story, I predict that the main character will
- The character I admire most is
- The character I dislike the most is
- I do not like when
- The book is not realistic because
- I can imagine this story happening to me because
- I would recommend that you read this book because
- I would not suggest you read this book because
- One part I would change is

RESPONSE

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Journal Response Helper

Directions: Use this template to get started with your journal response. After filling out this page, turn each reaction into a complete paragraph. Write your letter in your response journal.

_____ Date

Dear _____,

I am reading _____
written by _____. The main character is _____.

In the book _____

_____.

Reaction 1: _____

_____.

This is what happened to make me think this:

_____.

Reaction 2: _____

This is what happened to make me think this:

Reaction 3: _____

This is what happened to make me think this:

Final thought or conclusion

Closing
Signature

Spelling Checklist

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> journal | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> letter | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> response log | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> reading | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> nonfiction | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fiction | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> connection | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> prediction | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> reaction | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> question | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> explanation | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> sincerely | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> author | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Illustrator | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Spelling Checklist

- journal
- letter
- response log
- reading
- nonfiction
- fiction
- connection
- prediction
- reaction
- question
- explanation
- sincerely
- author
- Illustrator
-
-
-
-
-
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-
-

Journal Letter Rubric

Name: _____

Language Grade: ____ / 10

10	9	8	7	6
0 mistakes <input type="checkbox"/> 5 parts of a letter <input type="checkbox"/> Paragraphs indented <input type="checkbox"/> Punctuation <input type="checkbox"/> Capitalization <input type="checkbox"/> Author's name <input type="checkbox"/> Sentences make sense <input type="checkbox"/> Sentences are complete	1-3 mistakes <input type="checkbox"/> 5 parts of a letter <input type="checkbox"/> Paragraphs indented <input type="checkbox"/> Punctuation <input type="checkbox"/> Capitalization <input type="checkbox"/> Author's name <input type="checkbox"/> Sentences make sense <input type="checkbox"/> Sentences are complete	4-6 mistakes <input type="checkbox"/> 5 parts of a letter <input type="checkbox"/> Paragraphs indented <input type="checkbox"/> Punctuation <input type="checkbox"/> Capitalization <input type="checkbox"/> Author's name <input type="checkbox"/> Sentences make sense <input type="checkbox"/> Sentences are complete	7-9 mistakes <input type="checkbox"/> 5 parts of a letter <input type="checkbox"/> Paragraphs indented <input type="checkbox"/> Punctuation <input type="checkbox"/> Capitalization <input type="checkbox"/> Author's name <input type="checkbox"/> Sentences make sense <input type="checkbox"/> Sentences are complete	10 or more mistakes <input type="checkbox"/> 5 parts of a letter <input type="checkbox"/> Paragraphs indented <input type="checkbox"/> Punctuation <input type="checkbox"/> Capitalization <input type="checkbox"/> Author's name <input type="checkbox"/> Sentences make sense <input type="checkbox"/> Sentences are complete

Reading Grade: ____ / 20

5 Includes all needed predictions/connections questions/reactions	4 Includes partial predictions/connections questions/reactions	3 Includes partial predictions/connections questions/reactions	2 Missing needed predictions/connections questions/reactions	1 Missing needed predictions/connections questions/reactions
10 Detailed explanation of all	9 Detailed explanation of most	8 Detailed explanation of some	7 OK explanation of all	6 OK explanation of most
5 OK explanation of some	4 Missing explanations			
5 outstanding summary	4 good summary	3 acceptable summary	2 summary is missing some parts	1 summary is not complete

Journal Letter Rubric

Name: _____

Language Grade: _____ / 10

10	9	8	7	6
___ mistakes <input type="checkbox"/> 5 parts of a letter <input type="checkbox"/> Paragraphs indented <input type="checkbox"/> Punctuation <input type="checkbox"/> Capitalization <input type="checkbox"/> Author's name <input type="checkbox"/> Sentences make sense <input type="checkbox"/> Sentences are complete	___ mistakes <input type="checkbox"/> 5 parts of a letter <input type="checkbox"/> Paragraphs indented <input type="checkbox"/> Punctuation <input type="checkbox"/> Capitalization <input type="checkbox"/> Author's name <input type="checkbox"/> Sentences make sense <input type="checkbox"/> Sentences are complete	___ mistakes <input type="checkbox"/> 5 parts of a letter <input type="checkbox"/> Paragraphs indented <input type="checkbox"/> Punctuation <input type="checkbox"/> Capitalization <input type="checkbox"/> Author's name <input type="checkbox"/> Sentences make sense <input type="checkbox"/> Sentences are complete	___ mistakes <input type="checkbox"/> 5 parts of a letter <input type="checkbox"/> Paragraphs indented <input type="checkbox"/> Punctuation <input type="checkbox"/> Capitalization <input type="checkbox"/> Author's name <input type="checkbox"/> Sentences make sense <input type="checkbox"/> Sentences are complete	___ or more mistakes <input type="checkbox"/> 5 parts of a letter <input type="checkbox"/> Paragraphs indented <input type="checkbox"/> Punctuation <input type="checkbox"/> Capitalization <input type="checkbox"/> Author's name <input type="checkbox"/> Sentences make sense <input type="checkbox"/> Sentences are complete

Reading Grade: _____ / 20

5	4	3	2	1
10	9	8	7	6
5	4	3	2	1
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Journal Letter Rubric

Name: _____

Language Grade: ____ / 10

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Reading Grade: ____ / 20

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Journal Letter Rubric

Name: _____

Language Grade: ____ / 10

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___ mistakes <input type="checkbox"/> 5 parts of a letter <input type="checkbox"/> Paragraphs indented <input type="checkbox"/> Punctuation <input type="checkbox"/> Capitalization <input type="checkbox"/> Author's name <input type="checkbox"/> Sentences make sense <input type="checkbox"/> Sentences are complete	___ mistakes <input type="checkbox"/> 5 parts of a letter <input type="checkbox"/> Paragraphs indented <input type="checkbox"/> Punctuation <input type="checkbox"/> Capitalization <input type="checkbox"/> Author's name <input type="checkbox"/> Sentences make sense <input type="checkbox"/> Sentences are complete	___ mistakes <input type="checkbox"/> 5 parts of a letter <input type="checkbox"/> Paragraphs indented <input type="checkbox"/> Punctuation <input type="checkbox"/> Capitalization <input type="checkbox"/> Author's name <input type="checkbox"/> Sentences make sense <input type="checkbox"/> Sentences are complete	___ mistakes <input type="checkbox"/> 5 parts of a letter <input type="checkbox"/> Paragraphs indented <input type="checkbox"/> Punctuation <input type="checkbox"/> Capitalization <input type="checkbox"/> Author's name <input type="checkbox"/> Sentences make sense <input type="checkbox"/> Sentences are complete	___ or more mistakes <input type="checkbox"/> 5 parts of a letter <input type="checkbox"/> Paragraphs indented <input type="checkbox"/> Punctuation <input type="checkbox"/> Capitalization <input type="checkbox"/> Author's name <input type="checkbox"/> Sentences make sense <input type="checkbox"/> Sentences are complete

Reading Grade: ____ / 15

5	4	3	2	1
5	4	3	2	1
5	4	3	2	1