

Journal Entry Form

Name: _____

Prompt: _____

Before group meeting: Answer the prompt and add any other reflections on the chapter.

After group meeting: Have your thoughts or opinions changed in any based on what group members said?

How did your literature circle go today?

Rate your participation in your literature circle for today:

Excellent

Good

Fair

Poor

Journal Prompts help students think more deeply about the text.

"....asking them to just 'talk about' the book isn't enough. That's why we use prompts to help students respond, question, and theorize about what they have read. A good prompt can be used with any book to provide a way to think about the text and ground students' writing."

Prompt Examples:

- Have you ever felt like this character?
- Would you read another book by this author?
- What questions would you like to ask the author?
- What was the author trying to tell you?
- Do you think the main character did the right thing?

Other types of Prompts:

MAKING PERSONAL CONNECTIONS

- ❖ What did the story remind you of?
- ❖ Is there any character in the story like you?
- ❖ Compare at least two characters to yourself, your family or our friends.
- ❖ Make a personal connection with a character or the story.

IDENTIFYING IMPORTANT ELEMENTS

- ❖ What are one or two important ideas from this story?
- ❖ What was the author trying to tell the reader?
- ❖ Who do you think was the most important character?
- ❖ What surprised you in this story? Why was it a surprise? What did you expect instead?
- ❖ Does the title fit the story? Why or why not?

EXPRESSING FEELINGS ABOUT THE STORY

- ❖ How did the story make you feel?
- ❖ Why do you think other readers might or might not enjoy reading this story?
- ❖ Would you recommend this book to someone else?
- ❖ What was your favorite part of the story?
- ❖ Which character did you like best/least? Why?
- ❖ Did your feelings change as you read this story? How?

NOTICING THE AUTHOR'S CRAFT

- ❖ If you could change this book, how would you change it?
- ❖ Did the author write this book in a special way?
- ❖ Why do you think the author wrote this story?
- ❖ Is anything in this book strange or weird? Why do you think the author put that in the story?