

PLEASE CONSIDER ANY OF THE FOLLOWING JOURNAL ENTRY SUGGESTIONS:

Consider the following twenty jump-start questions (from *Bridging English*, 1999):

1. What character(s) was your favorite? Why?
2. What character(s) did you dislike? Why?
3. Does anyone in this work remind you of anyone you know? Explain.
4. Are you like any character in this work? Explain.
5. If you could be any character in this work, who would you be? Explain.
6. What quality(ies) of which character strikes you as a good characteristic to develop within yourself over the years? Why? How does the character demonstrate this quality?
7. Overall, what kind of a feeling did you have after reading a few paragraphs of this work? Midway? After finishing the work?
8. Do any incidents, ideas, or actions in this work remind you of your own life or something that happened to you? Explain.
9. Do you like this piece of work? Why or why not?
10. Are there any parts of this work that were confusing to you? Which parts? Why do you think you got confused?
11. Do you feel there is an opinion expressed by the author through this work? What is it? How do you know this? Do you agree? Why or why not?
12. Do you think the title of this work is appropriate? Is it significant? Explain. What do you think the title means?
13. Would you change the ending of this story in any way? Tell your ending. Why would you change it?
14. What kind of person do you feel the author is? What makes you feel this way?
15. How did this work make you feel? Explain.
16. Do you share any of the feeling of the characters in this work? Explain.
17. Sometimes works leave you with a feeling that there is more to tell. Did this work do this? What do you think might happen?
18. Would you like to read something else by this author? Why or why not?
19. What do you feel is the most important word, phrase, passage, or paragraph in this work? Explain why it is important.
20. If you were an English teacher, would you want to share this work with your students? Why or why not?

Also, consider some of the following questions regarding character (from *Bridging English*, 1999):

1. Describe on character's problem or a choice to be made. What advice do have for that character?
2. Explain why you think a character is acting as he or she is.
3. Comment on a provocative/interesting/important/enjoyable passage and comment on it.
4. From what you have read so far, make predictions about what could happen next, explaining the reasons for your predictions.
5. Explain why you would or would not like to have a particular character as a friend.
6. Explain why you would or would not like to have lived in the time and place of this novel or story.
7. Write questions about a part you had difficulty understanding. Choose one question and explore possible answers.
8. Examine the values of a character you like/dislike.
9. What real-life persons or events are you reminded of by characters or events in the story?
10. Reread your entries to date and discuss what your main reactions to this book seem to be so far.

In addition, you may use one of the following prompts to get going (from *Bridging English*, 1999):

1. It surprise me that...
2. Before I thought...; now, I know...
3. When I read...I began to understand...
4. The author writes (comment on style, subject matter, structure)...
5. What new information did you learn about the specific cultural/ethnic group?
6. Were any stereotypes demystified for you?
7. How similar/different to yours are the emotions expressed in this reading?
8. In what way is this story alike/different from those you usually read?