

## Literature Letters

Welcome to our Nonfiction Unit! To guide your comprehension and understanding we will be writing Literature Letters once a week. You will be writing to a friend and will remain anonymous. In other words, you will not know who you are writing to, and your literature partner will not know who you are. So, you will need to explain your thoughts thoroughly, as your reader will not be familiar with your book.

Your literature letter will show me your thinking about your weekly reading assignment. You will write a friendly letter that uses appropriate grammar, sentence structure, and **letter format**. This should be a deeper thinking activity, not a summary or a critique of your book. You are expected to make some connections, ask some questions, and make some predictions at the very least in your letter to your literature partner. To help you dig deeper in your reading I am including some thinking stems to help guide you. You will include **connections, questions you may have, images in your mind, and/or traits** of someone who makes a change in the world.

February 6, 2015

Dear Friend,

Paragraph 1- (You will include no less than a 4 sentence summary of the week's reading assignment. Don't forget to tell your reader what book you are reading.)

Paragraph 2- (Connections, questions, images, character traits)

Paragraph 3- (Prediction of what is to come or a universal thought about the selection)

Sincerely,  
Anonymous

**THINKING STEMS!**  
Be an ACTIVE READER :)

<p><b><u>A. Making Connections:</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. This reminds me of...</li> <li>2. An experience I have had like that...</li> <li>3. This reminds me of the book _____ because...</li> <li>4. How can I live differently because this book has been a part of my life?</li> </ol>	<p><b><u>B. Asking Questions:</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. I wonder...</li> <li>2. How come...</li> <li>3. Why...</li> <li>4. I'm confused...</li> <li>5. What if...</li> <li>6. I don't understand...</li> </ol>
<p><b><u>C. Visualizing/Sensory Images:</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. In my mind I picture _____ when I read _____...</li> <li>2. I visualized...</li> <li>3. I can see...</li> <li>4. I can taste/hear/smell/feel...</li> </ol>	<p><b><u>D. Inferring/Predicting:</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. I think...</li> <li>2. Maybe this means...</li> <li>3. I'm guessing...</li> <li>4. This allows me to assume...</li> <li>5. I predict _____ because...</li> </ol>
<p><b><u>E. Summarizing:</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. So far this book is mostly about...</li> <li>2. The main ideas in this book are...</li> <li>3. Some important events are _____ because...</li> <li>4. First....Next....Then....Finally</li> </ol>	<p><b><u>F. Synthesizing:</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. I'm thinking that...</li> <li>2. At first I thought _____ but now I'm thinking _____ because...</li> <li>3. I'm changing my thinking again because...</li> <li>4. I think the lesson or theme is _____ because...</li> <li>5. These events have caused me to believe...</li> </ol>
<p><b><u>G. Author's Message:</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What is this story really about?</li> <li>2. What does this story say about the world?</li> <li>3. Whose story is being told?</li> <li>4. What are the themes I have been identifying so far?</li> <li>5. What is the lesson of this book?</li> </ol>	<p><b><u>H. Evaluating:</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. I agree with _____ because...</li> <li>2. I don't think ...</li> <li>3. _____</li> <li>4. _____</li> </ol>
<p><b><u>I. Setting (Time and Place):</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. This story takes place...</li> <li>2. Something I noticed about the setting...</li> <li>3. I would/would not like to live during this time period/in this place because...</li> <li>4. The author used _____ to describe the setting...</li> </ol>	<p><b><u>J. Characters:</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. If I were (<u>character's name</u>) I would...</li> <li>2. The character that interests me most is _____ because...</li> <li>3. A character that really changed in the story was _____ because he/she ...</li> </ol>

	<p>4. I like/don't like (<u>character's name</u>) because...</p>
<p><b><u>K. Plot:</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. I think a problem in this story is...</li> <li>2. I think (<u>character's name</u>) will try to solve this problem by...</li> <li>3. An event that I think might happen next is...</li> <li>4. Another way this story could have ended is...</li> <li>5. Predict how the character might overcome an obstacle.</li> </ol>	<p><b><u>L. Language:</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. I like the way the author described...</li> <li>2. _____ is a new word for me. I think it might mean _____ because...</li> <li>3. An interesting (word, phrase, or sentence) that I noticed ...</li> <li>4. _____ is one of my favorite passages because...</li> </ol> <p>*Record page numbers where you noticed language!</p>
<p><b><u>M. Author:</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. I think the author wrote this book because...</li> <li>2. It's interesting how the author...</li> <li>3. Something I noticed about the author's style...</li> <li>4. I'd like to read another book by this author because...</li> <li>5. I do/don't like this author's writing style because...</li> </ol>	<p><b><u>N. Illustrator:</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. If I were the illustrator of this book I would change/draw...</li> <li>2. I could draw _____ as a symbol for _____ because...</li> <li>3. Illustrations would/wouldn't make this story more interesting because...</li> </ol>
<p><b><u>O. Non-Fiction Prompts:</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Something that interests me about this topic is...</li> <li>2. Something new I learned...</li> <li>3. I want to learn more about...</li> <li>4. Some questions I still have about the topic...</li> <li>5. The author made the topic interesting by....</li> <li>6. An illustration or picture that interested me the most was _____ because...</li> <li>7. Something I don't understand...</li> </ol>	<p><b><u>P. Open – ended Prompts:</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. If I could change one part of the selection, I would change _____ because ...</li> <li>2. I wish...</li> <li>3. Something that surprised me was...</li> <li>4. As I read this selection, I felt _____ because...</li> <li>5. I liked/didn't like when _____ because...</li> <li>6. My favorite part was when _____ because...</li> <li>7. I noticed...</li> <li>8. I think the genre of this selection is _____ because...</li> </ol>

Sample Letter

February 4, 2015

Dear Friend,

I have just finished the most wonderful book, *Walk Two Moons*, by Sharon Creech. It is the story of a girl, Sal, who has to pick up and move to Euclid, Ohio with no explanation. There Sal meets a new friend named Phoebe who teaches Sal so many underlying things about herself she never realized before. Sal then goes on a trip with her grandparents to find her missing mother. Through the road trip Sal starts to unfold information to answer so many of her questions.

The main character, Sal, has trouble finding her place in the beginning of the novel. However, when Phoebe came along Sal starts to fit into her surroundings. I can relate to how Sal was feeling when I moved from Texas to North Carolina at age 13. It was tough in the beginning and I was uneasy about my environment. When I started making friends things became easier. As I was reading, I wondered how Sal would have been if she never had to move to a new place and make new friends. How would the story have changed?

There was a specific scene that really stuck out in my mind while I was reading, the Singing Tree. This place was special to Sal and while I was reading I could really picture how sentimental this place really was. The figurative language that Sharon Creech used to describe the Singing Tree really helped me picture everything about this place and I could understand her feelings while she was in this special place.

Sincerely,

Anonymous