

Responding to Literature

(adapted from 75 WAYS TO SHARE A BOOK by Suzanne Barchers)

Sometimes you'll read and be bursting with ideas that you want to write about. Other times, however, you'll be stuck. This list is to help you with those "stuck" days.

1. Write about what you've read to a friend.
2. Make an annotated map of where the book takes place.
3. Make a story map of the book's main events.
4. Create a crossword puzzle, using the setting and plot.
5. Tell why the book would (or wouldn't) make a great movie.
6. Explain the book's funniest (or most exciting) incident.
7. Write about a particular passage that stood out to you.
8. Pick five to ten adjectives that describe a character. Tell why.
9. Describe an incident from the book as though you were an on-the-scene TV reporter.
10. Write a letter to one of the characters.
11. Make up a poem about the setting, the plot, or a character.
12. Think up new names for the characters and explain why.
13. Compare the book to the movie or TV version.
14. Make a time-line of the book's events.
15. Create a new ending for a chapter or book.
16. Write a case for putting this book into a school curriculum.
17. Make up a lost or found ad for something in the book.
18. Rewrite one of the book's incidents for a younger reader.
19. Create a comic-book version of what you just read.
20. The U.S. President has learned that you've read this book and wants to know one thing a main character discovered about life that you think all Americans should know. What would you tell him/her? Why?
21. Describe the main character in 64 words.
22. Choose a character you'd like (or not like) to have as a friend. Tell why.
23. Make believe you are one of the minor characters. How would you describe one of the main characters?
24. Write one of the sections in script form.
25. Plan an appropriate meal for a main character. Explain why.
26. Create a cartoon strip based on a character.
27. Write a few pages in a diary as if you were a character.
28. Write a poem about a character.
29. Design costumes for some of the characters. Explain why each is appropriate.
30. For stories that took place in another time, tell how one of the characters would act today, or would respond to a present day situation.

31. Tell why one of the characters should have a different role.
32. Tell what your home would be like if it belonged to one of the main characters.
33. Write a biography of one of the characters.
34. Write an interview between a character and the author, or between two characters.
35. Write song lyrics based on what you're reading.
36. Pick a book you think each of the main characters would enjoy reading. Tell why.
37. Guess what would have happened if a character had made an important decision differently.
38. Make a list of facts you learned from the book.
39. Persuade an audience to read (or not read) the book.
40. Tell why you would (or wouldn't) recommend the book to your principal, a parent, or another student.
41. Tell what the book would say about itself if it could talk.
42. List the book's five most interesting or critical sentences. Tell why.
43. Use the book's theme or setting to create a postcard or greeting card.
44. Compare the book to another book the author has written. Describe common elements, style, theme, and so forth.
45. Make connections between the book and current events.
46. Make connections between the book and some experience you've had.
47. Prepare a list of its most unusual, difficult, or exciting words. Explain why they stand out to you.
48. Use the book's title and theme to write your own story.
49. Describe how the section or book could be different in a different setting (time or place).
50. Compare the book with a book of similar theme.
51. Write book-jacket "blurbs" from fictional critics.
52. Become the author and tell why you wrote this book.
53. Plan the questions you'd use in a conference call interview with the author.
54. The author has written to you and wants to know how this book would have been improved. How would you answer?
55. Write a letter of appreciation to the author, asking questions and sharing thoughts.