

Reading Response Moves – Eleven ways to react to reading

INSTRUCTIONS – Please write four to six sentences (a solid paragraph) for each reading response move you respond to. When appropriate, cite text with page numbers and quotations, refer to specific sections of the reading, look up word definitions, or pick an outside source or reference to ensure you sound as intelligent as possible by supporting your responses with specific details.

Diction: What particular words or phrases seem most significant or surprising or confusing?

Passages: Which passages seem especially relevant or significant? Which passages convey most clearly the important ideas? Where is the writing at its best or most effective? What makes it that way?

Repetitions, Patterns, Motifs: Which repetitions (of ideas, images, words, even objects) can be seen as part of a pattern? What's the logic of the pattern? What might the pattern represent or symbolize or emphasize?

Compare/contrast: What do you see in the text that reminds you of something else inside or outside of the text? How are those two things the same? How are they different?

Reader response: What goes in your mind as you think about a particular passage? What do you feel? What do you like or dislike? What else does it remind you of? How does it connect to the world you live in, the life you are living? What questions does the text create in your mind? What answers suggest themselves?

Contexts/intertexts: How does the context shape your understanding what you are observing? In what other texts have you seen something similar. How does your previous experience with other texts help shape your understanding of this one?

Character analysis: What do we know about particular characters? How do they behave? What are they doing? Why are they doing it? What motivates them? How do they compare to one another? How do they change or grow?

Structures (Beginnings, endings, turns, epiphanies): What are the observable structural elements in the text? How many parts are there? How are they related to one another? Where does one part end and the next begin? Where is there a surprise? What points of view are represented? How are they signaled? How does the title relate to the rest of the text? What does the title tell you about the way the author intends the text to be read?

Observations, Inferences, Questions: What do you know for sure? What can you make reasonable guesses about? What remains open to question?

Persuasion: Is there a case that you can make about an arguable point, a thesis?

Cultural background: What does the text reveal about the culture in which it is set? Which aspects of FREEPA (family, religion, education, economics, politics, and arts) are emphasized? Which are deemphasized or ignored?