Journal Responses to Reading Assignments

To promote understanding of your reading assignments, you are required to write journal entries as you read the text. Write one journal entry for each day’s reading assignment. The journal entries will enhance your reading comprehension and also may be used to share in class as a tool for class discussion. Each journal entry should have a heading with the text’s title, author’s name, page numbers, and date. If more than one assigned story or poem, you can write about one, or more. Keep your journal entries in chronological order in a separate part of your notebook. I will be collecting them periodically to give you credit. Each journal entry should have the following three parts:

1. Questioning the text and/or author:

Write 3 questions that relate specifically to the text or the author’s intent or method in writing the text. Use the journalists five questions: Who, What, Where, Why & How? In some cases, you will need to pose more than one question. Who, What & Where questions do not lead to a fully developed answer, so always follow them by asking a Why or How question.

2. Journal response:

Choose one of the 3 questions you have posed, or write on a completely different aspect of the text, to address something that puzzles, intrigues, or simply interests you. Write at least one fully developed paragraph of 4 or more sentences.

3. Vocabulary words:

Identify 3 words from your reading that are unfamiliar, intriguing, or in some way interesting to you. List them and provide a short definition.

Grading: Each journal response is graded on a 0-3 point scale. All of the above three requirements must be adequately provided to receive a maximum score of 3. Deficiencies lower the score accordingly. All journal scores in addition to quiz scores are totaled for 10% of your overall grade.