**Reader’s Journal Guidelines: I will collect your journal for each chapter as we go. It should take roughly 15 minutes to do—I’d work as I go. Ideally, you’ll annotate as you go, and it will be easy. This will really help you to understand what is going on and become an “active” vs a “passive” reader.**

A reader’s journal helps students to pause and reflect, ask questions, and connect ideas based upon their reading. It is a tool to help you become a more engaged reader. It also acts as a focus for personal ideas you may want to remember for discussing in class, working on a project, or taking a test.

Keeping a reader’s journal allows you to explore texts more deeply and to understand them more fully.

**Guidelines:**

\*We have study and analysis questions already—answer those as you go. This is something completely different. See the points below to help you out.

• Do not summarize the plot; rather, read and record your thoughts, reactions, and questions about situations, characters, actions, settings, symbols, plot, theme, etc. I have already read the book(s) and do not need a summary. What I do need is to see how you think about what you have read.

• Do not worry about grammar; rather, jot your ideas freely and honestly. You will be graded on the quality not mechanics.

• Do not revise for neatness. A journal should be something you keep as you read or immediately following a chapter/section (not something you go back and manufacture at some point when finished a text). Consequently, I do not expect journals to be typed and overly organized. Get a small notebook to use or keep loose-leaf paper in ordered from.

• You may respond personally, rather than with academic language. Here are some examples:

I do not understand…I noticed that…I wonder about ...

A question I have is…

This story (character, phrase, etc.) makes me feel/think…

I think the setting is important because…

I really like/dislike this (idea, person, attitude, etc.) because…

What was the author thinking when he/she…

The purpose of a journal is not to test your knowledge of the reading but to help you reflect personally and thoughtfully as you read. As such, there are no right “answers” or uniform expectations. Writing your ideas will help you to clarify your thoughts and will allow me to observe your reading strategies.

Summary of Expectations: In order to gain the most benefits from a reader’s journal, you should:

• attempt and complete the assignment in good faith as you read

• respond honestly and energetically (even if responding negatively)

• write an adequate amount (remember, this is a tool to demonstrate how well you read)

• ask questions and observe your responses as they develop (you should understand your own ideas)

• take some risks and be an active participant in your own learning process