**Response Questions**

**Trimester 2: Character and Motivation**

**Directions:** Choose **one** to answer in a well-developed paragraph. If one prompt doesn’t seem to fit what you read this week, just choose another--you don’t have to stick to the same prompt each week.

**If you’re reading a narrative (a book or article that tells a story)....**

1. What theme or lesson might this story be communicating? Include evidence.
2. Choose a character. What are his/her most important personality traits? Give evidence to support your answer.
3. Choose a character. Does s/he make wise decisions? Give examples and evidence to support your point.
4. Would you describe one of the characters as a hero? Why or why not? Gives examples and evidence to support your point.
5. What motivates a character to make a decision or act in a certain way? Include evidence.

**If you’re reading an informational or expository text (nonfiction that doesn’t tell a story like a magazine article or manual)….**

1. What do you think the author’s purpose is? (In other words, why did the author write this text? To teach or inform about something? Argue a point? Share an experience? Send a message?) How do you know?
2. If you had to give this text another title, what would you give it and why?
3. Should the author have added more pictures or graphics to the text? If so, what pictures or graphics would be helpful to the reader and why?
4. How do you think the author organized the text--by time, location, compare and contrast, cause and effect, description, or some other method? How do you know? (Hint--try looking at headings, subtitles, chapter titles, and/or the table of contents.)
5. Who would you recommend this text to and why?

**Reading Response Rubric**

|  | **Exceeding** | **Meeting** | **Progressing**  | **Beginning**  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Required Reading | I have done more than the required amount of reading from an appropriate text. | I have done the required amount of reading from an appropriate-level text.  | I have almost completed the required amount of reading or read from an inappropriate-level text.  | I did not complete the required amount of reading and/or read from an inappropriate -level text |
| Focus/Main Idea  | I provide an answer to one of the prompts that is not only clear but shows deep insight to the text.  | I provide an answer to one of the prompts that is clear and easy for the reader to find. I focus the whole paragraph on my answer to this one prompt.  | I provide a partial answer to one of the prompts, or my reader may have trouble finding or understanding my answer to the prompt.  | I did not answer one of the prompts even if I wrote about the book, or I may have tried to answer lots of prompts instead of just one.  |
| Evidence  | I supported my answer to the prompt with multiple pieces of evidence from the text. I used the strongest and most effective evidence I could find.  | I supported my answer to the prompt with effective, specific evidence from the text.  | I supported my answer to the prompt with some evidence from the text, but my evidence may have been too vague, general or loosely related to be effective.  | I did not provide enough evidence from the text to support my answer to the prompt.  |
| Reasoning/ follow-up | I analyzed each piece of evidence I provided so my reader would understand its significance.  | I fully explain why and how my evidence supports my thinking; it is easy for my reader to understand why I provided each piece of evidence.  | I sometimes explain why and how my evidence supports my thinking, or I may not fully explain my thinking and reasoning.  | I did not explain my evidence; I may have only listed my evidence.  |

**Sample Reading Responses to informational/expository text**

**First draft...**

I would recommend *Bodyweight and Strength Training Anatomy* to my brother. This book would show him exercises he can do right in his own home. My brother wants to get better at pull-ups, but he isn’t allowed to install a pull-up bar in the apartment. The book shows you how to take exercises that have gotten too easy and make them harder with going out and buying dumbbells or a barbell. Last week my brother was complaining that push ups don’t feel challenging to him anymore, but he can’t fit a barbell for bench presses in his living room! However there is a whole chapter on how to make push-ups harder. In the same way the book also teaches you how to make squats harder without a barbell or dumbbells. In conclusion I would recommend this book to my brother.

***Better...***

I would recommend *Bodyweight and Strength Training Anatomy* by Bret Contreras to my brother because it has a lot of information he would find useful. This book is about how to train your muscles and get stronger using just your bodyweight, so each chapter teaches you exercises that don’t require special equipment. My brother lives in a small apartment, so he doesn’t have room for any strength-training equipment, but a book like this would show him exercises he can do right in his own home. For example, my brother wants to get better at pull-ups, but he isn’t allowed to install a pull-up bar in the apartment. This book has a chapter on how to use just your dining room table to do inverted rows, or how to use a towel in a door jam to practice pull ups. The book also shows you how to take exercises that have gotten too easy and make them harder without going out and buying dumbbells or a barbell. Last week my brother was complaining that push ups don’t feel challenging to him anymore, but he can’t fit a barbell for bench presses in his living room! However there is a whole chapter on how to make push-ups harder by doing them with one arm, adding a clap, or putting your feet on a chair. In the same way the book also teaches you how to make squats harder without a barbell or dumbbells. You can add a jump, or learn how to do them with one-leg! If my brother would just read this book, he would see that he doesn’t need any extra equipment or a gym membership to get strong!

**What made the second sample better than the first one?**

**Sample Responses to Narrative Reading**

**First draft…**

I read *Divergent* by Veronica Roth, and the main character is Beatrice. In the beginning of the book, Beatrice leaves her family to join a group called Dauntless. All the new group members have to jump off a building to get to the entrance of the compound. Beatrice is the first person to jump off the roof, and she falls into a net. She did not know that there was a net at the bottom, and she jumped while everyone was watching her and laughing at her. Later in the story Beatrice climbs a ferris wheel to try to find the other team’s spot. She could have fallen off the ferris wheel and died, but she climbed up anyway. Beatrice and the other initiates learn to throw knives. One of the initiates named Al cannot hit the target, and the instructor, Eric, tells him to go get his knives. Al will not because everyone else is still throwing knives, and he is afraid to get hit by one. Eric makes Al stand in front of a target and is going to have Four, the other instructor, throw knives at him, but Beatrice stands up to take Al’s place. Beatrice could have gotten hit by one of the knives and been killed, but that did not stop her from helping Al and letting Four throw knives at her. Beatrice is a very brave girl.

***Better...***

In *Divergent* by Veronica Roth, the main character Beatrice is brave for many reasons. In the beginning of the book, Beatrice leaves her family to join a group called Dauntless. When she first arrives at Dauntless headquarters, all the new group members have to jump off a building to get to the entrance of the compound. Beatrice is the first person to jump off the roof, and she falls into a net. She did not know that there was a net at the bottom, and she jumped while everyone was watching her and laughing at her. Later in the story, during a game of capture the flag, Beatrice climbs a ferris wheel to try to find the other team’s spot. She could have fallen off the ferris wheel and died, but she climbed up anyway. After the game, Beatrice and the other initiates learn to throw knives. While they are throwing, one of the initiates named Al cannot hit the target, and the instructor, Eric, tells him to go get his knives. Al will not because everyone else is still throwing knives, and he is afraid to get hit by one. Eric makes Al stand in front of a target and is going to have Four, the other instructor, throw knives at him, but Beatrice stands up to take Al’s place. Beatrice could have gotten hit by one of the knives and been killed, but that did not stop her from helping Al and letting Four throw knives at her. Beatrice is a very brave girl.

**What made the second sample better than the first one?**