

# Reading Letter Instructions

Throughout the school year, you will be asked to show evidence of your thinking about the book you are currently reading. The Reading Letter is one way in which you will share a brief analysis and any thoughts and confusion about your book.

Using the **Tracking your Thinking** handout (below), write Ms. Titus a letter about what you are reading. Your note needs to illustrate your thinking thus far in your reading and is not just a summary.

It must be at least **one full page** with correct spelling and grammar.

Example:

Date

Dear Ms. Titus,

Hi! This book, *Papertowns*, is fantastic! I am really enjoying *Papertowns* because the characters are so real. I noticed the author uses a lot of imagery to show what each character is doing at the moment. Like in this line... " "

One part where I am still confused is because...

Sincerely,

Your Name

<p><b>Tracking your thinking over the course of a book:</b></p> <p>I used to think _____, but now I think _____.</p> <p>I still think _____, but I'd like to add _____.</p> <p>others think _____, but I think _____.</p> <p><b>Things to track over time:</b></p> <p>A character:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• How does he/she change?</li><li>• what insights does the character gain?</li></ul> <p>what big ideas are being developed?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• what conflict arises?</li><li>• what do these conflicts tell the reader?</li><li>• what claims does the author make? what passages support these claims?</li></ul> <p>what techniques/moves does the writer make?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• what literary devices are used? (e.g. foreshadowing, personification).</li><li>• where does the author use punctuation and sentence structure effectively?</li><li>• what are the key passages? why?</li><li>• Notice beautiful sentences/passages. Comment on them.</li></ul>	<p><b>Track your confusion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• what is confusing at the beginning of the book? Does the confusion remain or does it clear up?</li><li>• what passages/sentences/words do you find confusing? Show evidence that you are wrestling with the confusion.</li></ul> <p><b>Thought starters:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• I noticed...</li><li>• I wonder...</li><li>• I was reminded of...</li><li>• I think...</li><li>• I'm surprised that...</li><li>• I'd like to know...</li><li>• I realized...</li><li>• If I were...</li><li>• The central issue(s) is (are)...</li><li>• One consequence of _____ could be...</li><li>• If _____, then...</li><li>• I'm not sure...</li><li>• Although it seems...</li></ul> <p><b>"That" statements</b></p> <p>This passage makes me think that...</p> <p>This makes me feel that...</p> <p>The author is suggesting that...</p>
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