Independent Reading Assessment - Reading Partner Letter Exchange

Together, you and your partner will choose your book, set a reading schedule and write letters about the pages you have read. On the due date, you and your partner will exchange your letters during class and write a response. Letters and responses will be collected the day of the due date (below).

Your Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Partner’s Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Name of the Book\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\*If you choose to read more than one book with your partner, please include the additional titles.

Pages DUE Dates

* + #1: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Thurs, Feb 5th (A) and Fri, Feb 6th (B)
  + #2: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Thurs, Feb 12th (A) and Fri, Feb 13th (B)
  + #3: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Thurs, Feb 19th (A) and Fri, Feb 20th (B)
  + #4: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Thurs, Feb 26th (A) and Fri, Feb 27th (B)
  + #5: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Thurs, March 5th (A) and Fri, March 6th (B)

# **WHAT TO WRITE TO YOUR PARTNER**

Write a letter to your reading partner in which you discuss the pages you have read thus far. Your goal is to summarize what you’ve read, share ideas about the content of the book and seek help about parts that are confusing or you want another perspective on. Your letter should be at least 1 page long.

Begin with “Dear \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,”

Start with a BRIEF summary of the pages you have read (2-3 sentences).

* This week’s reading is mostly about … (discuss characters, relationships, important events and conflicts)

In the next LONGER paragraph (7 – 10 sentences), share your thoughts on the reading. Make sure to discuss specific scenes and lines and quote the text. As you discuss the scenes and quotes, provide context (speaker, setting and situation). You may use some of these sentence stems:

* Something significant that occurred is when \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ says to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, “write the words here in quotes” (page #) because…
* A major conflict that is developing is …
* A twist I wasn’t expecting was when …
* I wish the author would have included a scene showing …
* A character that is particularly fascinating is … because …
* It was/ wasn’t believable when…because….
* I think that …will happen next because….
* I was especially interested when … , …because….
* I think the author used the literary element, …, in order to….
* A major theme of the book is …

In the final paragraph, ask your partner 2-4 questions. If possible give page numbers from the book to help your partner find the passage or scene you are talking about. HINT: Use the questions to get help with things that you don’t understand.

* What do you think \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_’s motivation was for ….?
* What did \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_mean when he/she said, “quote here” (#)?
* What did it mean when … ?
* Why do you think the author … ?
* What do you think about…?
* When … , do you think the author is suggesting that …?

Make sure to end with “Sincerely,” and your name

**RESPONDING to Your Partner**

Carefully read your partner’s letter and then write a response on a separate sheet of paper.

1. Open by addressing the questions your partner has asked you. Answer or guess at any that you can. Feel free to go back to the book, use a dictionary, etc. Try to quote the text and give evidence from the book to help you explain your answers.

* One possible reason …
* In the book, it says that “quote” (#) which explains why …
* When … it sounds like … but really what is happening is that …
* When … the author is trying to show …
* What’s actually occurring in the scene about … is

2. Then respond to the body of your partner’s letter.

Ask questions:

Agree or disagree with what your partner wrote and explain

* I agree / disagree with you when you say … because
* I didn’t interpret the scene when … the same way because …

Add additional information:

* I noticed something similar / different when …
* This connects to an earlier scene when … (refer to another part of the book you have read so far).

**Letter #1**

* Summary of what you have read so far including who the major characters are, the setting, and any developing conficts.

**Letter #2**

**Letter #3**

**Letter #4**

**Letter #5**

* Summary of final events of book. Describe how any conflicts were resolved.
* Summary of what you think to be the most important scene in the last section of the book you read
* Overall theme / message of the book. Choose a quote and include context that supports this theme and explain how.
* I would recommend this book to people who … (describe age, interests, reading level, experiences, etc. of those who might find this book appealing)
* PS: Include one thing you appreciated about working with your partner and one piece of feedback.