

The Reading Journal

Reading journals are reaction records you keep while reading. They are not complicated and will help you keep track of important points in the text as you read, saving review time later.

- Using a straight edge, draw a line lengthwise down the middle of a sheet of paper.
- On the left, label the column "Quotation."
- On the right, label the column "Reaction."
- As you read, choose quotations to copy using quotation marks and documentation.
- In the right column, write your reaction to the quotation.
- The reaction column may be used to:
 - give a personal response
 - show development of a character
 - show development of setting
 - show development of theme
 - show sequence or development of plot
 - discuss description
 - relate to a character
 - show foreshadowing
 - discuss confusing parts of the novel

Example:

Fahrenheit 451 Reading Response Journal

<u>Date and Quotation</u>	<u>Reaction</u>
12-2-2002 Part One, page 4 "Later, going to sleep, he would feel the fiery smile still gripped by his face muscles in the dark. It never went away, that smile...."	It seems odd that Montag has a "gripped" smile. Smiles should not be forced, but his is, even in the dark. This makes me think that Guy is unhappy with his life and/or his job. By smiling, it appears he tries not to face his unhappiness. I wonder if Montag wants to change his current situation?
12-2-2002 Part One, page 11 "How like a mirror, too, her face. Impossible; for how many people did you know who refracted your own light to you? How rarely did other people's faces take of you and throw back to you your own expression, your own innermost trembling thought?"	Montag certainly was impacted by the appearance of Clarisse. When leaving her presence, Montag realized his fear – she represented all he wanted to be. So, I guess he is not happy. This makes me think of my friends. My friends possess so many great qualities that I want to see reflected in me. Montag somehow wants to be like Clarisse. I wonder in what aspect.