**English Language & Literature 10**

**Independent Reading**

 **Response to Literature**

As we have discussed, stories often present snapshots of human experiences. Their strength lies in presenting interesting characters, settings, and situations, and in rendering small but significant truths about **human nature and the meaning of the human experience.**

**GOAL:** Your goal is to use your insights and writing skills to convey your ideas about a novel you have read during your independent reading this year.

**AUDIENCE:** You are writing for your classmates and your teacher to express your ideas. Your register should be formal.

**PRODUCT:** You will write a **response to literature**, which is a piece of writing that shows your understanding and interpretation of a text. Your interpretation must be supported with textual evidence and extended to insights rooted in additional research.

To do this, you need to choose an idea you found particularly interesting in your novel. Consider what the writer’s message is about this idea (THEME). In your response to literature, you should examine your chosen theme, how it is conveyed, and then discuss the links between this theme to the “bigger picture” of the real world (human nature, relationships, world events, thematic universal truths, etc.). In essence: ***To what extent are themes universal?***

**PRODUCT REQUIREMENTS:**

* You need an introduction, 2-4 body paragraphs, and a conclusion (4-6 total paragraphs).
* The response must be between 600-800 words
* You must use MLA formatting and citation, including a Works Cited List

**STANDARDS & CRITERIA FOR SUCCESS:**

You will be assessed using the following criteria:

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| *MYP criteria:* | *Task-specific clarifications:* |
| **Criterion C: Producing Text**i.Produce texts that demonstrate insight, imagination, and sensitivity while exploring and reflecting critically on new perspectives and ideas arising from personal engagementii. Make stylistic choices in terms of linguistic, literary, and visual devices, demonstrating awareness of impact on an audienceiii. Select **relevant details and examples** to develop ideas | **Criterion C: Producing Text**i.Think critically about the novel and its connections to your life, humans and relationships, and world issues and discuss on these in the body of your piece. Reflect on any new ideas and key insights you have gained.ii. Use a clear voice and style in your writing; your thoughts should be clearly presented through powerful wording to engage your audienceiii. Use textual evidence in the form of quotations and paraphrasing to support your points. Make sure your quotations are explained and clearly link to your points. |
| **Criterion D: Using Language**i. Use a range of appropriate vocabulary, sentence structures and forms of expressionii. Write in a **consistently appropriate** register and style that serve the context and intention.iii. Use correct grammar, syntax, and punctuation. iv. spell and write with accuracy | **Criterion D: Using Language**i. Use a variety of words and sentence structures to express your ideas (simple, complex, and compound sentences). Use ELEMENTS OF LITERATURE vocabulary.ii. Use a formal register that is suitable to a formal written task (no contractions, “I”, slang, etc.).iii. Make sure your sentences are grammatically correct (subjects and verbs agree, consistent verb tense, sentences are all complete thoughts). Use periods, commas, semi-colons, and quotation marks correctly.iv. Check spelling of all words, particularly literary terms, titles, and names. Edit your writing for typing errors and appropriate capitalization.  |

**How to write a response to Literature**

**With information From:** *the Young Writers Project*: http://youngwritersproject.org/node/2448

**INTRODUCTION:**

* Begin with a catchy opening to hook your readers’ interests
* BRIEFLY summarize the novel including the title, author, main character(s), and main conflict.
* Give any key contextual/background information
* State your THESIS (what THEME you will be proving and how is it universal)

**BODY PARAGRAPH 1:**

* What are you arguing is the main theme of the novel? Be sure to root this theme in specific evidence from the text, analyzing and examining various ELEMENTS OF LITERATURE & devices.
* Be sure to explain how your **quotations** convey your theme, and **do not forget MLA citation.**

**REMAINING BODY PARAGRAPHS**

* Discuss how the theme in your novel is universal and/or timeless. How are the ideas in the story relevant today? What connection(s) you can make to the novel (text to world)?
* Use additional research to support your ideas (articles, reports, studies, etc.) & make clear links between these ideas and your chosen theme in your novel.
* What can we learn from this story?

**CONCLUSION**

* Briefly summarize your main points. Avoid repeating from your body paragraphs.
* Re-state your thesis and take your argument a step further by raising a question or sharing a relevant observation or overall insight.

**Writing Tips:**

* Use the present tense when talking about the events in the book.
* Do not use "I" statements. We know this is what you think because it's your paper! This is informal.
* Use transitional words or sentences between examples to ensure that your paper flows smoothly.
* Re-read and edit your writing before submitting it. This helps you discover awkward phrasing/flow issues
* Make sure that all of your evidence supports your argument. If it doesn't (even if it sounds good), take it out.
* Take another look at the criteria and task to ensure that you are meeting the requirements!
* USE the resources on essay and paragraph structure, MLA format, and quotation integration on our website!