

**Secondary**

# Writing Activities to Accompany Reading

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# Utilizing Reading Activities

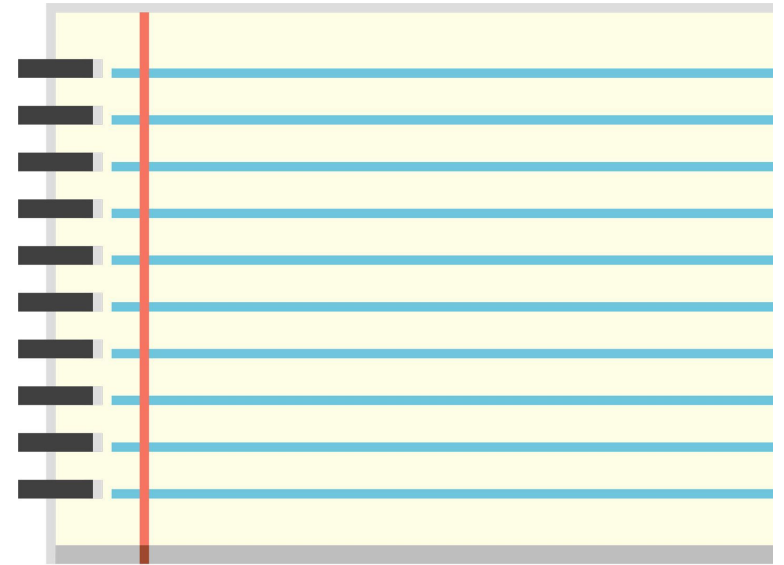
All of the following activities can accompany any book, short story, or even movie. These assignments will ask students to use critical thinking skills and to express their thoughts about what they are reading, through writing.

When students are reading, encourage students to read for 15 minutes independently in order to keep them practicing their reading fluency and comprehension.



# Elements to Include

- Write in complete sentences (capitalization and punctuation).
- Restate the question in your answer.
- Use evidence from the text to enhance the quality of your answer.
- Ensure you follow all directions and complete all elements of the activity.





## Write Into

Find a time in your book when a character “goes off screen.” An example would be if two characters were in a conversation and then one leaves. Write what you think that character that left is doing while they are gone from the chapter. Are they hanging out with new people? Are they crying themselves to sleep at home? Are they out causing drama with friends?

Describe what you think that character is doing:

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What evidence from the story helped you decide what they were doing?

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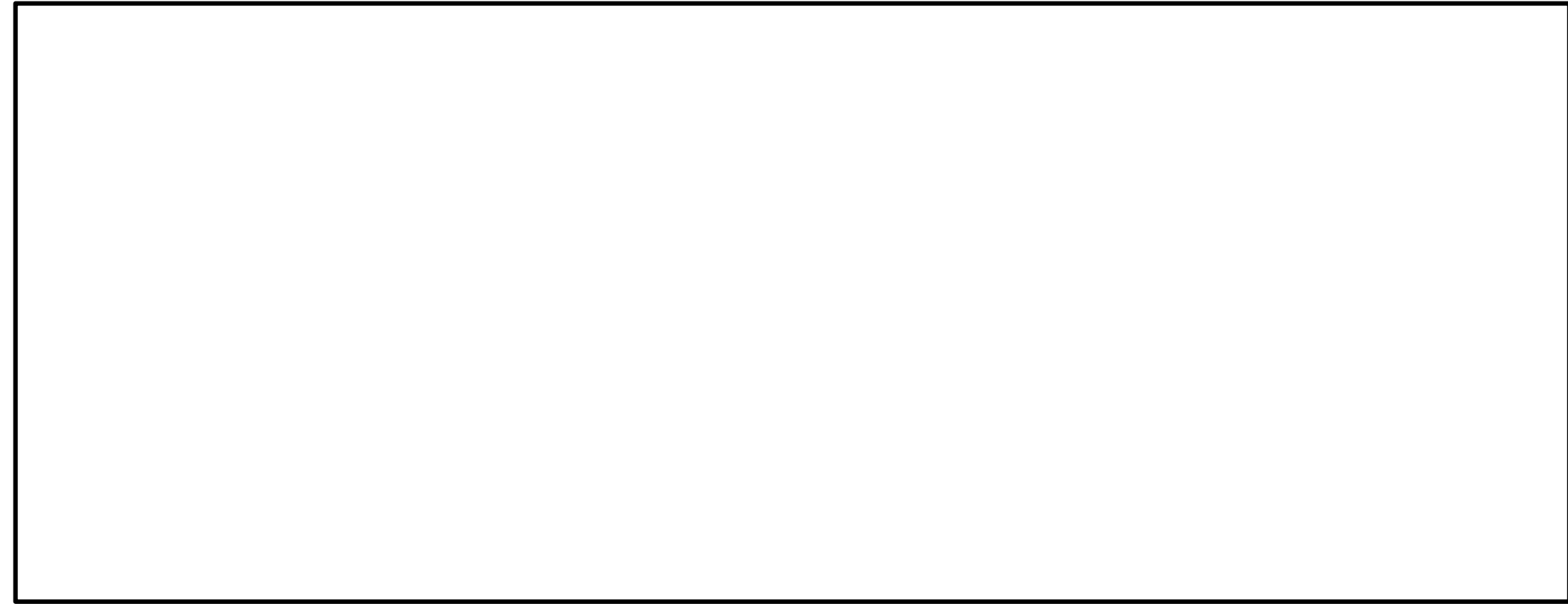
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# Draw!

Interpret what you just read into a storyboard or a cartoon. Draw the most important scene in the chapter and explain its importance and action.



Explain your drawing:

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Why is this scene important to the reading?

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## Gender Bender

Consider the protagonist (main character) in your novel. Imagine if the story in your novel was being told by a different gender. How would things be different? Do you think the story would be the same or different? Is it even possible for your story to exist if the gender of the main character changed?

Provide 3 examples from your story where a situation would have gone completely different if the gender of the main character were different. Make sure you explain, in detail, what would be different and why.

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Reader Response

Pick the most important word/line/image/object/event in the chapter and explain why you chose it; be sure to support each analysis with support from the text..

What you chose:

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Why you chose it: (What makes it important)

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Evidence from the text proving its importance: (include page number)

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## Thematic Response

Identify one major theme from your novel. Explain how the theme is shown throughout the novel. Provide at least two examples from the text that highlight the importance of this theme. You should have a total of four paragraphs in your essay: introduction, two body paragraphs (each example), and a conclusion. .

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## Second Chance

Write about how it would change the story if a certain character had made a different decision earlier in the story.

Explain what decision was made and the other options the character could have chosen.

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How would the different decision change the outcome of the story?

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Have you ever made a decision that you wish you could have a second chance? Explain what happened and what you wish you would have done differently.

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## Book Beginning

Often authors start their books with a “hook,” something to draw the reader into the action. How did your author start the book? Why do you think they started that way?

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Journal/Activity (Pick 2 to write about below):

- Journal: What have you experienced in your own life that helps you understand the novel?
- Journal: How does this book remind you of another book or movie that you have seen?
- Journal: How does this book compare to current events?

Journal Responses:

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## Title Analysis

The title and cover of a book is essential to the book's success. Look at the title and the cover of your book.

Write about whether or not you think your book's outward appearance does a good job representing the book. Tell why or why not.

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If you could re-do the cover or title of your book, what would you change it to? Provide a couple of ideas. How do these ideas represent the book?

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# Understanding Setting

Choose three of the following six questions to answer in complete sentences:

1. Where and when does the story take place?
2. Could the setting be a real place that exists in our time? Where?
3. Is the place important to the story?
4. What words did the author use to describe the place?
5. Is the time important to the story? How?
6. In another time or place, how would the story change?

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_