

ONE HUNDRED ONE WAYS TO RESPOND TO A TEXT

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REACT TO:

THE CHARACTERS

1. Discuss how the main character is like or unlike people you know.
2. Pretend you're one character and introduce the other characters to your class.
3. As an interior decorator, how would you decorate a character's bedroom and why?
4. Invite one character to dinner and write a note of explanation to your mother.
5. Invite three celebrities to a party for the main character and explain your choice.
6. Write a page about a character beginning with the sentence "I was (any verb) by ..."
7. Make a time line of the events in the life of the main character.
8. Write a chronology for one character.
9. Make up five interview questions (with answers) for the main character.
10. Explain where you think the main character will die.
11. For a film of your book, which actress would you choose for the leading female and why?
12. For a film of your book, which actor would you choose for the leading male and why?
13. Explain what the main character would prefer for Christmas and why.
14. Explain where the main character would prefer to vacation and why.
15. Explain what the main character would prefer for dinner and why.
16. Explain what the main character would prefer to wear and why.

THE SETTING

17. Make a map of your book.
18. Compare where you live with the neighborhood or town in your book.
19. Draw the setting of your book and explain it.

THE AUTHOR

20. Write to the author and explain your reaction to his book.
21. Write to the author and explain why his book appeals to your age group.
22. Make up five interview questions (with answers) for the author.
23. Pretend you're the author and explain why you chose the title of your book.
24. Pretend you're the author and describe the part that was most fun to write.
25. Pretend you're the author and tell what else you've written.
26. Pretend you're the author and tell about your life and how this book fits into it.

THE PAST

27. Tell what you think happened before the story began.
28. Imagine that you're an eighteenth century student. How would you react to your book?
29. If your story took place one hundred years earlier, how would your main character act?
30. If your main character is from the past, how would he act if the book took place today?

THE FUTURE

31. If you were a man from Mars, how would you react to your book?
32. Describe what you think happened to the main character after the book ended.
33. Explain why your book should be included in a capsule to be dug up in one hundred years.
34. Make a horoscope for the main character explaining his sign and his future.

COMPARISONS

35. Compare your book with another book you've read.
36. Describe an experience you've had that was like the experience of a character.

37. Compare your book with a movie or TV show of the same kind.

ART WORK

38. Design a book cover for your book.
39. Draw a comic strip of your book.
40. Draw a portrait of your favorite character and explain something about it.
41. Make any kind of illustration for your book (drawing, chart, graph) and explain it.
42. Cut words or pictures from the newspaper to make a collage or ad for your book.
43. Make a "WANTED" poster for the main character.
44. Make a "thumbprint" book about your book (the figures come from thumbs dipped in paint) and write captions for these illustrations.
45. Make a bulletin board about your book.
46. Create a poster for your book.
47. Write an ad for your book.
48. Make a bookmark for your book.
49. Collect pictures that go with your book and describe each.
50. Write out your title decoratively and for each letter write a phrase about the book.
51. Deliver a sales talk for your book.
52. Make a tape about your book.
53. Write ten discussion questions for your book.

DRAMA

54. Dramatize your favorite incident.
55. As a famous movie star you have been asked to play a character; explain your answer.
56. Write a TV commercial for your book.
57. Make a TV script for one scene of your book.
58. Play "What's My Line" with one character. Write out questions to portray him.
59. As a movie producer explain why you will or will not make your book into a movie.
60. Explain how your book could be made into a movie: clothes, setting, cars, props, etc.

CREATIVE WRITING

61. Write any kind of poem about your book.
62. Write a letter to a friend describing this book you are going to send him.
63. Write a different ending for your book.
64. Keep a journal as you read your book: your reactions, thoughts, and feelings.
65. Write a five-line "easy" poem about your book: a noun, then two adjectives, then three verbs, then a thought about the noun, and finally a synonym for the noun.
66. Write two articles for a newspaper published at the time of or in the country of your book.
67. Write an obituary for one character.
68. Write a diary for your favorite character.

VOCABULARY

69. Make a small dictionary (at least twenty-five words) for the subject of your book.
70. List fifteen interesting words from your book and tell why each is interesting.
71. List new words learned from your book: Define them and give the sentences in which you found them.
72. Choose some of the following words and explain how each applies to your book: stupendous, exciting, breathtaking, horrendous, fabulous, etc.

LITERARY QUALITIES

73. Why does your book begin as it does?

74. Quote passage of good description and good dialogue and explain them.
75. Find and write down twenty-five similes and metaphors.
76. Think about who the narrator is; then write one scene from the point of view of another character and explain the switch.

LIBRARY PROJECTS

77. Do research on any topic connected with your book.
78. In the *Reader's Guide* find five articles related to your book and tell how they apply.
79. Find a quotation applicable to your book and tell how it applies.
80. See if your book is in the library; then write a letter to the librarian either congratulating her for choosing it or asking her to order it.
81. Find a poem that applies to your book; write it out and explain how it applies.

CAREER EDUCATION

82. Make a job application for the main character and fill it in.
83. What did you learn about the vocation of the leading adult character?
84. Find newspaper want ads of interest to the character and explain why.
85. Write a business letter to the publisher and order copies of your book; explain why.
86. From the yellow pages of a phone book, pick out businesses you think the main character would be interested in and explain why.

VALUES CLARIFIED

87. How did the book change your way of thinking?
88. Use this as a topic sentence, "This book made me (any verb)."
89. Explain what the main character would be least likely to do and why.
90. Did any character change during the book? Explain how and why.
91. What problems did the main characters have and how did they meet them?
92. If the book has a villain, why was his punishment justified?
93. As a psychiatrist, analyze the conflicts and problems of a character.
94. Would you like to have a character as a friend? Explain?

FUN

95. Defend: This book should be read by everyone who hates reading.
96. Defend: This book should never be spoiled by a teacher requiring a book report.
97. Free choice: Do anything you want in connection with your book.
98. How many reasons can you think of to take your book to an isolated Antarctica camp?
99. Describe a field trip you would like to take because of your book.
100. Write one page on this: Why _____ should not read this book.
101. Make a crossword puzzle from your book.

OTHER CHOICES MAY INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING::

- ☐ Letter: Create a letter from the world of the story. Design a personalized letter head that fits the story, adopt the voice of a major character, aim the letter at a specific audience (either some character in the story, a character in another story, or the letter-writer himself as an old friend), and use the letter to rationalize or explain some set actions in which the character was involved.
- ☐ News Format: Write a radio or television news script or a newspaper front page. The featured items could include write-ups of events, personalities, opinions, or predictions from the book.

- ❑ Interview: Produce an interview (student with main character, main character with author, or students with author, etc.). The presentation of the interview should include an introduction about the accomplishments, ideas, and background of the interviewee. It should also include a dialogue based on a series of questions posed by the interviewer to bring out the important features of the book. Be sure to attend to the natural sound of dialogue. The interview could be set in a talk show format.
- ❑ Advertising Campaign: Design an advertising campaign to promote the sale of the book. The campaign should include the following: a graphic poster, a 30 second TV spot (script and visuals), a magazine ad (4" x8"), a personal appearance by the author at a department store (provide script for a three-minute book talk).
- ❑ Diary, Journal: Assume the role of a character and write an interior monologue, diary, or journal. An interior monologue will be written in present tense, written as the character moves through the event and recording what the character is thinking as events happen to him or her. A journal or diary will be written generally in past tense as the character reflects upon the events at a later time.
- ❑ Greeting Card: Create a greeting card that one character might send to another. Tell why it would be sent and the receiver's reaction.
- ❑ Choose a scene from your book and rewrite it as if it took place two hundred years in the past or two hundred years in the future.
- ❑ You are a newspaper reporter covering an event as if you witnessed it.
- ❑ Make a drawing of an object from the book that would be a symbol of one of the characters. Tell why you chose the object and how it is a symbol in the story.
- ❑ Choose a scene from your book and rewrite it as if it took place in one of these locations: a) on a desert island b) in Antarctica c) on an ocean liner or d) in a city you know well.
- ❑ You are a private detective assigned to follow the main character. Write a report on his/her activities for one period of time. Tell where he/she went, who he/she met, and what he/she did.
- ❑ The main character is to receive an award at a ceremony. Design the award and tell why the person is to receive it.
- ❑ You are a millionaire suffering from a fatal illness. You are trying to decide what to do with your money. Tell which character you would leave your money to and why.
- ❑ You are a psychologist offering advice to the main character in your book. Tell what the problem is and what advice you would give.
- ❑ You are a fortune-teller. Predict the future for the main character. Give details of where he or she will be and with whom, and what will happen.
- ❑ Postcard: Prepare a picture postcard and write a message from a principal character in the book addressed to themselves. In addition, the postcard should include a color illustration of a scene from the story on one side of the card, your name and address as the addressee, a stamp designed to be appropriate to the world of the story, the author and title (underlined) of the book printed vertically between the message and address spaces, and a brief sentence or phrase at the top of the message area that describes the scene.

- ❑ Bumper Sticker; Create a bumper sticker motto that relates to the situation, plot, theme, characters, and so on. Make the bumper sticker on a poster board.
- ❑ Mobiles: Create a mobile representing the plot, character, etc. of the book.
- ❑ Music: Present a tape with musical excerpts (for example, a soundtrack for the book) - entire selections or a combination of fragmented portions, which represent the moods or atmospheres of the book. You may want to include news clips, lines of poetry, or extra sound effects.
- ❑ Art Work: Open for interpretation. Quality is key. You might want to create a full-size poster based on a particular part of the book. You might see your idea in a shape that your have made out of poster board or some other medium. You may use shape in a collage to reflect a symbolic interpretation of the book.
- ❑ Free Choice: If none of the above ideas appeal to you, make a suggestion.