**ENGLISH 9 WEEKLY READER RESPONSE**

Each week, you are expected to read independently outside of class for at least twenty minutes, four times a week. You will also be required to write a one page (single spaced, or two double spaced) letter to Miss Wright each week, discussing what you read in depth. Below, you will find the requirements for each paragraph of your letter. If you were reading more than one book, choose your favorite to write about.

**Requirements:** Your letter must be written neatly and legibly. If you choose to write in pencil, please erase errors completely. If you choose to write in ink, please use a dark color such as blue or black. If you choose to type your letter, use the font Times New Roman, size 12, and print a copy to be turned in at the beginning of class on the due date, or email the assignment to Miss Wright by 11 pm on the due date. Points will be deducted if you do not write in friendly letter format.

**First Paragraph:** Title/Author/Genre of the book you read this week  
 An objective summary of the key events/ideas from your reading

**Second Paragraph: Choose one** point of analysis to discuss

Examples:

Your reaction to an event/character action/ending etc.  
Signposts/Guiding Questions  
Connections (Text to Self, Text to Text, Text to World)  
Break down a conflict in the book and how it affects the plot/characters/etc.  
Text Structure  
Author’s Craft/Language  
Mood/Tone  
Quote analysis  
Theme  
Figurative Language examples (effect on the story/reader)  
Compare/Contrast a character with another character or real person  
You favorite character, part, etc.  
Setting (its effect on the events, characters, etc.)  
Character Development (How they did/did not change)  
Parts of the story you would change

**Third Paragraph:** What’s your opinion on what you are reading?  
Struggles in reading (difficult level, unknown words, pace, etc.)  
Strategies you employed to tackle struggles  
What do you plan to read next week?  
Anything else you want me to know!

Grading is contingent on completion of all requirements and basic English conventions.

**Due Every Week On:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\*\*Late letters will be accepted for half credit.\*\*

**Sample Reading Response**

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| Imma Student Month #, Year Pd. #  Reading Response 1  Dear Miss Wright,  This week I started reading Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury. It seems to be a dystopian novel set in the distant future. At the start of the book, we meet Montag, a fireman. However, firemen in this book are very different from firemen as we know them. Montag’s job is to burn books because, in his world, reading books is illegal. He really enjoys his job until he meets a young girl on his way home one night. The young girl says that her name is Clarisse, she is seventeen, and she is crazy. Clarisse asks him if he ever reads any of the books he burns and he is completely taken aback by this. A few nights later, while on a job, Montag is further shaken when a woman sets herself and home on fire, committing suicide in a dramatic protest against the firemen trying to burn her books. The scene sickens Montag who starts to question his world, something people don’t seem to do a lot of. He steals a book from the woman’s house before it goes up in flames and hides it in his bedroom. Meanwhile, we learn that Montag’s wife is an addict who spends every night absorbed in her Seashell radio. Montag even ends up having to take her to the hospital to have her stomach pumped when she overdoses on sleeping pills. Between his having fallen out of love with his wife, his sudden disillusionment with his line of work, and the revelation that Clarisse may have been killed in a car accident, it has become clear that Montag’s life is about to take a turn.  Bradbury frequently breaks grammatical rules in his writing, which I find fascinating. He repeats himself a lot and writes run on sentences. Although the book is science fiction, his writing style sort of makes it feel more like fantasy to me. Sometimes the long sentences seem a little sing-songy. For example, on Montag’s walk home, just before he meets Clarisse, Bradbury writes, “Perhaps his nose detected a faint perfume, perhaps the skin on the backs of his hands, on his face, felt the temperature rise at this one spot where a person’s standing might raise the immediate atmosphere ten degrees for an instant.” The long flowing sentence builds the tension. I can’t help but feel like his writing doesn’t sound like a man is writing. From my experience, most of my male acquaintances don’t speak very poetically and are more direct and to the point. Therefore, I find his style incredibly unique.  I really love this book so far and I can’t believe I’ve never read it. It’s a pretty famous title and I love dystopian stories. People’s obsession with these “Seashells” remind me of the way everyone is absorbed in their cell phones today. Although I’ve fallen in love with Bradbury’s language and flowing style, it can be difficult at times. There was a strange passage where I couldn’t tell what was happening. I reread it several times and still couldn’t really tell if Montag was dreaming, or is the seashell radio was somehow projecting scenes onto the walls of his room. After I rereading it several times, I had to look up a chapter summary, which helped me clarify that Montag was actually picturing TV walls that symbolically separated him from his wife. The summary also revealed that their beds are separate, which I didn’t get the first time I read through the text. This week, I hope to finish part one of the book and possibly start part two. I’m definitely thinking about reading his other book The Martian Chronicles next. I hope it’s just as good!  Sincerely,  Imma Student |