



Independent Reading Journal Directions

The purpose of the Independent Reading Journal is to document that students are reading on a regular basis each week, applying strategies while reading in order to think more carefully about the text, and varying the genres they read. Students should read at least 4 times per week, for at least 20 minutes each session. Reading can be done at school or at home, but be sure the quality of your written work is top-notch!

Step 1: Choose a book that is "just right." Write the title & author of the book on today's calendar date in your Independent Reading Journal. Write the page number you are starting with. (If it is a new book, it will be page 1.)

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
	1	2	3	4
7	8 <i>Freak the Mighty</i> by Rodman Philbrick Pages 1 -	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25

Step 2: Choose one reading strategy from your Reading Masterpiece Notebook to use during this session, such as:

1. Follow your inner conversation and leave tracks of your thinking.

- 1.) Preview the text.
- 2.) Create 3 to 6 questions that may be answered in the text.
- 3.) Write your thinking on Post-it notes as you read.
- 4.) See if you can answer any of your original questions. (Some of them may be "lingering questions.")

Do all animals taste in the same way?
I didn't know that catfish have taste buds all over their bodies!

How do bees use their sense of taste?
all over their bodies!

2. Notice when you lose your way and use "fix up" strategies.

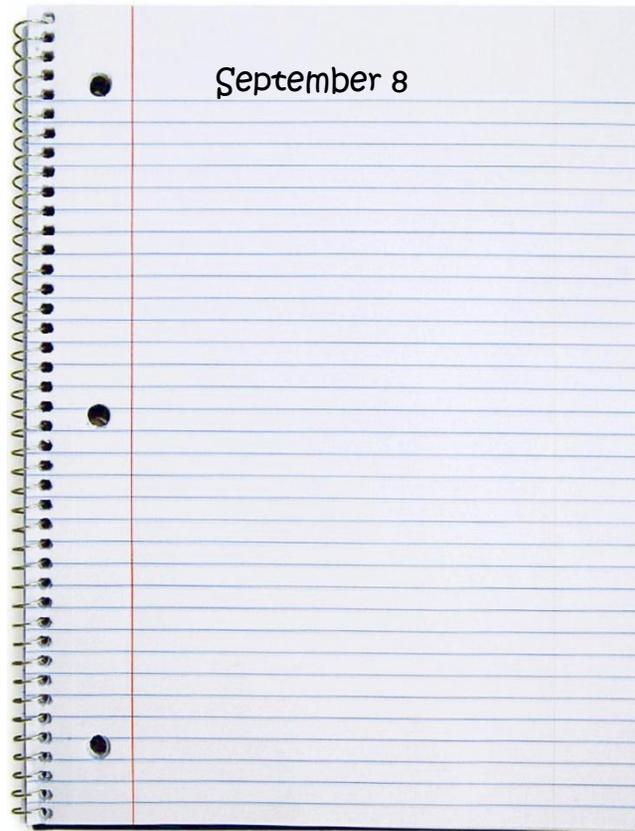
Why Meaning breaks down	Fix-up strategy
Distractions or wandering mind	re-read, find a quiet place to read
Text is too hard	re-read, choose a different text
Text is boring	Activate prior knowledge, set a purpose
Some words are difficult	Use a dictionary or context clues/word-part skills
I keep losing my focus	Use sticky notes to keep track of your thinking. Adjust reading pace Ask for help Look for text features.

3. Read, write, and talk through the text using a "Stop and Jot" strategy.

Symbol	Strategy	Thought Starters
V	Visualization (What do you see?)	I had a picture in my head... I could see... I visualized... I pictured... I saw...
S	Sense (What do you hear, feel, smell, or taste?)	I could hear... I could feel/touch... I could smell... I could taste...
♥	Emotion Images (Were you happy, angry, or relieved?)	I felt... It made me feel...
T-S T-T T-W	Connections (Did you experience something like this?)	This reminded me of... I connected to this because...
?	Questions (Do you want to ask something?)	Who, what, where, when, why, how? I wonder...? I want to know...
P	Predictions	I predict...because...
O	Opinion	I think...because...

C	Confusion	I was confused about... I did not understand...
W	Unknown Word	I didn't know how to pronounce the word... I didn't know what the word meant...
☆	Key Point	A key point was... A main event in the story was...
L	Something new I learned	Something new I learned was...
☑	Confirmation	Something I already knew or predicted was confirmed when...
☒	Contradiction	I thought...but I was contradicted...the true fact is... I was wrong about...
!	Surprise	I was surprised to find out... There was a twist in the story when...

Step 3: Turn to the next new page of your journal, and write the date at the top. As you read, you will document your strategy use on that page.



Step 4: Read and Write! Document your strategy on your journal page. When you have read for at least 20 minutes, write down the page number you stopped at on the calendar block. Shade the calendar date that has the title/author according to the "genre color code."

Fiction Genres	Color	Nonfiction Genres	Color
Realistic Fiction	Red	Informational	Yellow
Historical Fiction	Green	Biography/Autobiography	Pink
Science Fiction	Blue		
Fantasy	Purple		
Mystery	Orange		

Your calendar should end up looking something like this:

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
	1	2	3	4
7	8 <i>Freak the Mighty</i> by Rodman Philbrick Pages 1 - 15	9 Pages 16-31	10 Pages 32-50	11 Pages 50-61
14 Pages 61-78	15 Pages 79-100	16 Pages 101-120	17 Pages 121-140	18
21 Pages 141-160 (END)	22 <i>Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone</i> by J.K. Rowling Pages 1-15	23 Pages 16-25	24 "Water—Bottled or from the Tap?" (Nonfiction Article)	25 Pages 26-50

Notes to remember:

- **Vary your strategies.** Don't use "stop and jot" every day. If that is your favorite strategy, you may use it more frequently, but must also show that you are using a variety of strategies.
- **Vary your genres.** Don't just read realistic fiction. Be sure to include other genres, including nonfiction. To meet the nonfiction requirements, you can simply choose

a day to read an article and use that as your nonfiction text for one day. Then you can go back to your book.

- We will have **Independent Reading Journal Conferences**. During that time, you will show me your journal and the book you are currently reading. We'll go over the strategies you used and the calendar to see your reading habits. You will also do a "cold read" at that time. That means you will read a *teacher-chosen* random passage from your book out loud without practice. Later on, you will have an opportunity to do a "warm read." That means you will select a passage from your book to read after you've had time to practice and rehearse it.
- Most importantly, be sure to **enjoy the book** you are reading! There's no need to stress and struggle! This is a good opportunity to relax, read, and refine your comprehension skills! If a book isn't working out, then you may abandon it and choose another. Keep trying until you find a book that you "just can't put down!"

