

Learning Experiences for 9-12 Students

Before Reading

- Create a plan for reading (i.e., set a goal for the number of pages or chapters to be read daily).
- Preview the book by reading the title and the front/back covers and make several predictions about the book/story.
- Record information for both of the bullets above in your journal.

During Reading

- Use paper or a notebook as a journal associated with the book. Each daily journal entry should include:
 - Date and pages read,
 - A summary of major events, and
 - A personal reaction to what you read.
- Create a page in your journal for each of the following questions. As you read each day, collect evidence from the book/story and record it on the appropriate page of the journal.
 - Identify and describe the main characters in your novel. What motivates their actions and interactions with others? How does this impact the plot?
 - Describe the most important events so far. How are the characters affected by these events?
 - How does the author structure the plot elements and for what purpose?
 - What has the author done to make the book interesting, including his or her use of language?
 - How have the characters changed throughout the novel?
 - What is the point-of-view of the main character(s) and/or author of the story? How might the story change if told from a different point-of-view?
 - Think about important images and objects in the story. What might they symbolize?
 - Explain a lesson this book teaches you and how it applies to your own life.

After Reading

- Rewrite a scene from the story from a different point of view.
- Write a book review for publication.
- Relate information from the book to other real-life events and discuss these with other people you know.

Other Activities (Complete five of the following each week.)

- Budget, plan and cook a meal with your family. Discuss culture as it relates to ingredients and dining etiquette.
- Take a walk/hike and track your heart rate before, during, and after. Graph these numbers over the course of the week and write a short reflection about your experience. Consider taking a family member with you and compare the numbers.
- Take a walk/hike and identify as many signs of a changing season as you can. Record your observations with drawings and/or writings.
- Plan an art project to reflect some aspect of your life. Provide a summary of your work to guide the viewer in his/her understanding.
- Watch a science or social studies-oriented documentary/newscast, read a newspaper article, or listen to a radio broadcast. Summarize the claim being made, evidence provided in support of the claim, and the reasoning.
- Using household items, develop an invention or innovation and pitch the idea to your family. Discuss how it will improve the lives of those using it.
- Practice guided visualization by sitting or lying down in a comfortable position. Turn on soft music if available. Close your eyes and imagine a favorite place. Start with a small mental visualization of your favorite place. Imagine the sights, sounds, smells, and touch of this place. Slowly increase your mental vision of this place to see a wider view. Sit quietly in this favorite place as you slowly breath in and out.
- Band/Chorus/Orchestra students should continue practicing daily. At the end of each week, write and reflect upon how you have improved and set goals for continued improvement for the next week.