Independent Novel Study

Metacognition

When a good reader is reading a novel, they are constantly thinking, making connections, and asking questions about the story. For example, a good reader may ask themself: why is the character doing this? Why has the narrator revealed that? Or, is this event foreshadowing a larger problem?

"Have you ever been reading a book and found yourself staring off into space? Whether you knew it or not, you were probably wondering about what you read. Often, when you pause in your reading, you find yourself thinking about a character in the story or an amazing fact about a topic. You're revisiting some of the ideas in your reading and asking yourself what they mean."

http://www.benchmarkeducation.com/educational-leader/reading/metacognitive-strategies.html

During reading:

For this activity, you will reflect and respond to four questions about your novel in class, and hand them in to your teacher. This can be rough work. After your novel is finished, your reflection will be returned, and you will reflect **again** on the predictions and questions you had earlier on in the book, and discuss whether your predictions were right or wrong.

Please be honest and thoughtful with your responses. The entire assignment will be marked **after** your novel is completed.

1. Make a **prediction** about something that might happen next in your book

   a. Character→ What do you think the protagonist, or a secondary character, will do next? Why do you think this? What clues has the narrator provided that makes you think this? **(2 Marks)**

   b. Plot→ Has the narrator foreshadowed any future events, conflicts, obstacles or problems? Why do you think this? What clues has the narrator provided which makes you think this? How do you think the novel will end? **(2 Marks)**

2. Reveal two **questions** that you have about the book at this point.

   a. Characterization: Are there any questions you have about the protagonist, or any other characters in the novel? What questions do you have about them that haven't been answered? What are you hoping to discover? Explain. **(2 Marks)**

   b. Plot: Are there any "holes" in the story? What information is missing? What are you unclear about? Explain. **(2 Marks)**

After Reading:

Now that you've finished your novel, you will read over the predictions you made, and questions you had, earlier on in the story. Answer the following questions:

1. Were your character predictions correct? Why or why not? **(4 Marks)**

2. Were your plot predictions correct? Did events happen the way you expected? What twists happened in the plot which you didn't see coming? Looking back, were there clues that you overlooked? **(4 Marks)**

3. Were the questions you had earlier on in the book answered? Do you still have questions? Were you satisfied with the ending? Why or why not? **(4 Marks)**

Spelling and grammar   **(5 Marks)**

Hand in a polished good copy of the "before reading" and "after reading" questions. It should be written up in complete sentences. Your rough work must be attached.

"Before Reading" Due Date:_____

Polished copy Due Date: _____