

**Summer Reading
The Reading Response Journal**

English 12

Title to be read: *Cry, the Beloved Country* by Alan Paton
Mere Christianity by C. S. Lewis

You will need a copy of both novels for classroom use the first nine weeks of school.

Reading Response Literature Log:

As you read, write your personal response in your reading log. Use reactions and questions about situations, ideas, actions, characters, settings, symbols, plots, themes, and any other elements in the story. You can't be wrong in your responses, so take risks and be honest. Write about what you like and dislike, what seems confusing or unusual to you. Tell what you think something means. Make predictions about what might happen later. Relate your personal experiences which connect with the plot, characters, or setting. Interpret the author's meaning and make some personal reflections or connection to the text.

Instructions for keeping a reading response log:

- You must have **2 columns** (divide the paper in half).
- Title the **left** column: "Quotations from the Text".
- Title the **right** column: "Commentary/Responses to the Text"
- **Each** response should **be 3-5 sentences**.
- Include **at least 15 entries** for the novel.
- Show knowledge and understanding of the **entire** novel from the first to the last page.

Responses may begin:

"This reminds me of..."

"I can relate..."

"This part is just like..."

"This is similar to..."

"An interesting word/phrase/sentence is..."

Or... you may begin an entry with something else you feel is appropriate.

Your Reading Log will be used to determine your comprehension of the text.

Remember:

Your response log is a place to record your reactions and questions, not a place to simply summarize what you've read. These logs are meant to be read by others and should relate to the assigned material. You may be sharing your logs in class, so keep this in mind as you write. When sharing, you will have the opportunity to confirm, clarify, and modify your responses through discussion.