

Journal Assignment: Realism novels

Cry the Beloved Country, The Red Badge of Courage, One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich

For our study of realistic novels, you will need to keep a journal on the book you chose. Follow the format described below as you do your journal.

You need to have **25 journal entries**, which come from the **beginning, middle, and end** of the novel. Your entries should reveal that you have not only read the book, but also assimilated its plot and themes. Entries should demonstrate that you are synthesizing the concepts studied this term by relating what you read to symbols, motifs, themes, images, plots, characters, etc. read earlier.

Quote	Response
<p><i>On this side, copy the quote word for word.</i></p> <p><i>You may copy a complete sentence or just a part of a sentence. INCLUDE PAGE NUMBERS!</i></p> <p><i>Sample:</i></p> <p>“I see only one hope for our country, and that is when white men and black men, desiring neither power nor money, but desiring only the good of their country, come together to work for it.” p. 39-40</p> <p>“The Judge does not make the law. It is the People that make the Law. Therefore if a Law is unjust, and if the judge judges according to the Law, that is justice, even if it is not just.” p. 158</p>	<p><i>On this side you will write your response. The response is not a right or wrong answer. In the response tell what you feel, like, or do not like, agree with, disagree with. what literary concepts it develops or reminds you of. You may want to try offering a solution or analyzing the problem. If you ask a question, you MUST answer it.</i></p> <p>This states the theme of this book, which is that South Africa needed an end to racial discrimination through joint cooperation and goals. This could be Alan Paton’s personal solution and philosophy for apartheid.</p> <p>Why does Paton capitalize the word Law? Perhaps it is because he recognizes the importance of justice. This is a great quote! It is pure reality and tells us to stop whining and do something. People <u>can</u> change bad laws. Aristotle said something similar to this in the <u>Nichomachean Ethics</u> when he used justice as a virtue to describe The Golden Mean.</p>

- What to do in your responses:**
- Make connections with the literature we have read. What themes are similar? What motifs develop? What symbols are there?
 - Look for allusions to other works we have read or you know about. Identify and explain the allusions.
 - Examine how elements of realism and naturalism exist in the novels. Which are dominant? How is romanticism present?
 - Make connections with your own experience. What does the reading make you think of? Does it remind you of anything or anyone?
 - If a passage you quote has a simile, metaphor, personification, etc. in it, identify the literary device; discuss its significance.
 - Identify motifs and symbolism and discuss their significance to the novel as a whole.
 - Determine the author’s purpose in writing the novel. How do the passages you selected reveal the purpose?
 - What are the key themes in the novel? How do characters, events, figurative language, symbolism, etc. develop the themes? Why?

- What should you quote? Select something that...**
- makes you mad
 - surprises you
 - you consider worth repeating
 - you disagree with
 - you feel is wrong information
 - is said in an unusual catchy way—striking words, images, phrases, details (similes, metaphors, symbols, etc.)
 - key passages related to key themes in the novel. What are the themes?
 - you would like to write about
 - reminds you of a similar situation from your life, that we have studied in this class, or you have studied elsewhere in school where you have learned a similar lesson or truth about life.
 - repeats a theme or idea we have previously discussed in class. Relate the two ideas or works together
 - develops a motif or symbol. Explain what the motif or symbol is.

Important points to consider if you want a good grade. Don’t read these if you want to fail.

1. Quoting from what you are reading does not mean that you have to find something with quotation marks around it. It means find a complete sentence, part of a sentence, or passage (with or without quotation marks) that you copy word for word.
2. While it is permissible to raise questions, also provide an answer, or at least an educated guess as to what the answer could be.
3. Do not judge the characters or the situations by today’s American values or standards. For example, do not make a statement, as one student did, “Henry Fleming shouldn’t have passed the psych test to get into the army.” Such a statement fails to recognize that no such tests existed during the Civil War. Instead, analyze how you would react in a similar situation or how a character, in that setting, should have reacted.
4. Do not give superficial responses. Explain what a quote means, what the significance is. You will lose points if your responses indicate noncomprehension of the material or if your response gives inaccurate information.
5. Vary your responses. In the section above, I have given you many options to examine as you read your novel. While many responses can develop an idea you have, all of your responses should NOT be on one type. Analyze your novel at various levels.