**Freshman Outside Reading**

This year, in addition to your core literature reading, you will be reading additional books for this class. You should choose books that are at or near your reading level. If you choose something that is considerably below your reading level, you will not receive credit for the assignment.

Every class, you will write in your reading log about the reading you did the night before.

Each class, after ten minutes of writing, I will stamp your log. If you do not receive a stamp, you do not receive credit for that entry when you turn in your log. (You must do the writing in class.) Each entry is worth 10 points. If you are absent, you need to make up your reading log entry within a week of your return to class; make this up during A+ time.

In addition to your reading log, you will have a project or in-class essay that relates to your outside reading. This project/essay will be worth considerably more than each log is worth.

**Responding in your Reading Log**

As you read, write your personal response in your reading log. State your feelings, thoughts, reactions, and questions about situations, ideas, actions, characters, settings, symbols, plot, theme, and any other elements of the book. You can’t be wrong in your responses (as long as you read), so take some risks and be honest. Write about what you like or 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. Let me hear your voice.

Here are some possible prompts for your writing. Do not use the same prompt(s) over and over again; use some variety if you want to receive full credit. You may certainly use other ideas of your own. **Make sure you include more than just a summary of what is happening.** Support your summaries with what you are feeling as you read your book. Doing this will help you get the most from your book.

1. I like/dislike this idea because…

2. This character reminds me of somebody I know because…

3. This character reminds me of myself because…

4. This character is like (name of character) in (title of book) because…

5. I think this setting is important because…

6. This scene reminds me of a similar scene in (title of book) because…

7. I like/dislike this writing because…

8. This part is very realistic/unrealistic because…

9. I think the relationship between and is interesting because…

10. This section makes me think about because…

11. I like/dislike (name of character) because…

12. This situation reminds me of a similar situation in my own life. It happened when…

13. The character I most admire is because…

14. If I were (name of character) at this point, I would…

15. Any questions you might have after reading – be sure to explain them.

16. Did I learn anything from this part of the book? Can I take anything from it to improve

myself?

17. Can I make any predictions on what may happen next? Why do I think these things will

happen? What details in the section support my prediction?

18. Write about what your feelings are after reading the opening chapter(s) of the book. How do

your feelings change (or do they?) after reading half the book? Do you feel any

differently after finishing the book? Would you read the book again?

19. What emotions did the book invoke: laughter, tears, smiles, anger? Or was the book just

boring and meaningless? Record some of your reactions.

20. Sometimes books touch you, reminding you of your own life, as part of the larger human

experience. Are there connections between the book and your own life? Does the book

remind you of an event (or events) that happened to someone you know? Does the book

remind you of what happened in another book you’ve read?

21. Would you like to become one of the characters or acquire the personality trait of one of the

characters? Which of the characters would you become, if you could? Why? If there’s

something about the character that you’d want to change, what is it?

22. If you were the author, would you have changed the name of a character or altered the

location of a scene? What does the name mean to you? Do you have a negative

connotation associated with the name (or the place)? What would you name the character

instead? What would you use as a setting?

23. Does the book leave you with questions you would like to ask? What are they? Would you

like to direct your questions at a particular character? What questions would you like to

ask the author of the book? Are they questions that you may be able to answer by reading

more about the author’s life and/or works?

24. Are you confused about what happened (or didn’t happen) in the book? What events or

characters do you not understand? Does the use of language in the book confuse you?

How did your confusion affect how you liked the book? Is there anything that the author

could have done to make what happened (or didn’t happen) more clear?

25. Is there an idea in the book that makes you stop and think or an idea that prompts questions?

Identify the idea and explain your responses.

26. What are your favorite lines/quotations? Copy them into your reading log and explain why

these passages caught your attention.

27. How have you changed after reading this book? What did you learn that you never knew

before?

28. Who else should read this book? Should anyone not be encouraged to read this book? Why?

Would you recommend the book to a friend or fellow classmate?

29. Would you like to read more books by this author? Have you already read other books by the

author? Why or why not?

30. Write about the characters. Which one is your favorite? Is there a character you despise?

Why? What traits could you change about the characters that would change how you

think about them? Do you think that any of the characters represent *real* people? Does

anything about a particular character seem to be related to the author’s true personality –

who the writer is?

**Reading Log for *South of Broad* by Pat Conroy**

**Reading Log #1**

**8/24**

**(1-10)**

In these pages, the author introduces the main character, which is Leo King, and also sets up the setting. Leo is a shy child and describes himself as “a late bloomer.” I can relate to Leo because as a young child I was shy and not very sociable until I entered high school. In high school I was required to interact with my peers on a challenging level and therefore that experience has helped me to grow into the outgoing gal that I am today. I think that Leo had this same problem. Since his older brother was popular, athletic, and intelligent, Leo’s parents created this tendency to put more energy into the growth of their eldest son and left Leo at a disadvantage. In these pages, I also found that Leo has a job handing out newspapers and takes pride in it. I think that this is a wonderful opportunity for Leo to gain a perspective on how much responsibility having a job requires. I know that I learned this lesson at an early age and I feel that because of my jobs I am a more responsible person and have learned the value of a dollar.

Notice that the student wrote the title of the book and the author (since this is the first entry for this book). She included the number of the log (Reading Log #1). She also included the date of the log (8/24) and the page numbers she had read (pages 1-10). You need all of these elements for full credit. She wrote what would amount to about half of a page, handwritten. She demonstrated knowledge and understanding of what happened in the book, and she related it to her own life (as many of the prompts ask you to do). Remember that you will NOT do well if you merely summarize.

**Reading Log Scoring**

NO CREDIT if there’s no stamp

4-5 points: short summary only

6 points: longer but still summary only (or if there’s only one sentence of response)

7 points: includes short (only a few sentences) response or response that isn’t very thoughtful (i.e., responding to insignificant passages in novel, such as “I got an F on my math test, too”)

8 points: includes longer (4 sentences or more) response dealing with significant passage in a more thoughtful way

9-10 points: includes long (half page or longer) response dealing thoughtfully with a significant passage in the novel

Additionally, the following aspects will affect your grade on each reading log entry:

-1 point for no date or incorrect date

-1 point for no reading log number

-1 point for reading log entries that are loose, stapled, taped, etc.

Half credit for no page numbers (if this happens repeatedly, you will receive no credit)

Score lowered for not reading enough pages