

## Directions for Writing Journal Entries

For every book that you read, you are required to keep a journal. It is best to do this while reading the book; do not wait until you have finished the book to complete the entries. There must be a minimum of five (5) entries for each book. Each entry must be at least 100 words, showing that you have read and responded, in an honest and thoughtful way, to the book.

Each entry must be labeled as follows:

- Title of book & author
- Date of entry
- Page numbers covered by the entry

## Sample Journal Entries

*The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton  
July 10, 2003  
Pages 1-35

The story begins strong. It tells how the main character, Ponyboy, feels about life in his neighborhood. Right from the beginning, I can tell that his life is not an easy one. The setting reminds me more of New York than of Oklahoma. The way the place is described it seems like Oklahoma, but once it starts talking about the gangs, I picture New York. The characters seem so different, yet so similar. Take Dally; he seems misunderstood. The fact that he is so unlike the others gives him a sense of individuality.

My favorite character is Two-Bit because of the way he lightens the mood of all those around him. He is the opposite of Dally. Two-Bit is wise-cracking and funny while Dally is meaner and tougher. Two-Bit's life is not as hard a life as the rest; he has a home and a mother that loves him.

The character I admire most has to be Johnny. Johnny is quiet and shy. He comes from an abusive home. Johnny is the pet of the gang. To me, it seems like he just wants to be accepted because he isn't accepted in his family. Johnny must be stronger than everyone believes because of what he has gone through at home.

The Pact by Drs. Davis, Jenkins, and Hunt  
July 14, 2003  
Pages 163-254

I really respect Sam, George, and Rameck's perseverance during college. They seemed to face so many rough times, not only financially, but the stress of their courses, commuting between two colleges, and holding up their jobs. I admire how they never decided to just give up. One of the quotes from this part of the book that I found to be very motivating is when Sam says, "When you have failed repeatedly and think you're alone, the last try—the one that requires every ounce of will and strength you have —is often the one to pull you through." I understand what he means. There have been many times in my life when I have felt like just giving up, but I don't like to give up either because to me, that's when I fail. When something doesn't work out as I planned, I try to turn those feelings into positive energy.

*Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* by J.K. Rowling  
July 20, 2003  
Chapters 10-13 (pp. 163-227)

Albus Dumbledore is the most confusing character in this book. He seems to know more than he lets on. The most confusing thing about him is the fact that he always talks in rhymes and is never blunt. He is always giving you hints and leaving you mystified, always pondering what he told you.

I think that the Mirror of Erised causes more harm than good. It lets you see what your heart desires but this could cause more pain. The inscription on the top of the mirror says: "Erised stra ehru oyt ube cafru oyt on wohsi." If you look at these words for a while, you see that if read backwards, it says, "I show you not your face but your heart's desire." I wonder what I would see? Would it make me happy or sad?

While playing quidditch, I think I'd do best at either being a keeper or a chaser. I wouldn't be a beater because I'd more than likely miss the bludger. I wouldn't be a seeker because I'm not small and nimble, so I think either a keeper or a chaser would do. I'd prefer a chaser over a keeper because that position has more action. I would love to be in the heart of the game, instead of waiting for the action to come to me.