

Tips for Novel-reading: Journals

As you read our novel, keep a record in your journal of your responses according to the following guidelines:

- After every **chapter** stop and write a brief **summary** of that chapter's main events (three to five sentences).
- Write-out a single **question** that you have about why something has happened, or where the story appears to be going, or an important idea that occurs to you while reading.
- Make a “**Players Program**” of **Characters** *as they appear* in the story: List their name, any notable physical characteristics, their profession, and any personality traits you identify. Update this “Program” when each new character appears. Note the *relationships* among characters—whether family member, friend, neighbor, co-worker, whatever. Distinguish between Major characters (round) and minor (flat).
- Keep a list of important **topics** or ideas that arise from the narrative, such as injustice, sibling rivalry, love, courage, etc.