

Getting Started

Familiarize students with the Book Blog Writing Activity Center by working on a prompt together:

1. Choose a question card you would like students to answer. Read the prompt aloud, reviewing any necessary terms. Display the prompt in the bottom pocket of the chart.
2. Work as a class to write a sample reader response, using a story your class is reading or has read recently. (See tips below.) Display the response in one of the pockets at the left.
3. Work together to write a comment. (See tips below.) Post the comment in a pocket to the right of the reader response.

Tips for Using the Reproducible Pages

Students can post to the Book Blog in several different ways. Be sure to go over the kind of writing that is expected for each type of post. Then, place copies of the reproducibles in containers near the Book Blog.

Reader Response post

- Tell students that they should identify the story in the first sentence of the post. For example, they might write, "The character from E. B. White's *Charlotte's Web* that I would most like to be friends with is Wilbur the pig."

REMIND STUDENTS TO AVOID ONE-WORD RESPONSES AND TO INCLUDE EXPLANATIONS FOR THEIR ANSWERS. For example, if they write that they'd like Wilbur as a friend, they might continue, "He is fun to be with, and he cares about his friends."

Comment post:

- Tell students to identify the book and post they are commenting on.
- Remind students to comment in a respectful, thoughtful manner.
- Explain that students can do one of the following:
 - Agree or disagree with a reader response, and explain why.
 - Tell how the response affected them. ("Your response made me look at Wilbur in a different way. I never thought about Wilbur as being much fun." "I never read *Charlotte's Web*, but I'd like to now. The book sounds interesting.")
 - Add new information or another opinion. "I'd want Wilbur as a friend, too, but it's because he seems like a little kid, just like me.")

Amazing Author and Read This One! posts:

- Invite students to post information about a favorite author or book.
- After the information has been posted for a while, collect the papers and store them in a binder or display them on a bulletin board so that the class can refer to them in the future.

Suggestions for Assigning and Tracking Student Work

Adapt the Book Blog Writing Activity Center to fit your classroom routines and the needs of your students. Here are some suggestions:

- Assign the whole class one prompt. Later, display three responses at a time, changing them every so often. As responses are posted, let groups of students comment on them.
- Assign three students to write reader responses to one prompt. Assign the remainder of the class to post comments.
- Let a group of students volunteer to write reader responses to one prompt and let another group volunteer to write comments.
- Track student progress throughout the year by keeping all written responses in individual folders or having students glue their already-displayed responses in their own journals.
- Make a class chart for each prompt like the one below. Use the chart to check off the names of students who have written reader responses or comments.

Prompt 1				
	Reader Response	Comment	Date	Notes
1. Aaron A.	✓		3/5	Wrote about Wilbur/ <i>Charlotte's Web</i>
2. Carla H.		✓	3/6	Commented on Tony's response
3. Keesha H.	✓		3/5	Commented on Aaron's response
4. Tony J.		✓	3/7	Wrote about Mrs. Frisby

Read This One!

Title _____

Author _____

Main character(s) _____

It's about _____

Why I liked it _____

What I learned _____

One-word description _____

_____ !

Amazing Author

Name: _____

Books I've Read _____

What I like about this author's writing _____

Favorite book _____

Favorite character _____

