

# Middle School Reading/Writing Support

## Reading:

- 1) Circle key words in the questions.
- 2) Highlight AS you read. Highlight important details or answers to questions.
- 3) Go back and re-read parts of the text, especially when a question TELLS YOU which lines/paragraphs you need to look at!
- 4) Always re-read the first paragraph of every article/story/text. It helps focus you, and allows you to catch important info that you might miss on the first reading.
- 5) Always read the poems AT LEAST twice. Try to get the overall idea of what it's about and the mood of the poem.
- 6) Remember that the author's purpose is important. Don't confuse the author with the main character.
- 7) Use context clues to figure out vocabulary words/questions. Remember that you know prefixes and root words, too! That should help!
- 8) Take your time. Even though the passages will be long and difficult, you will still have time to read carefully.

## Short Responses:

- 1) Please, please, please write a big, long paragraph for each one! You need DETAILS to get full credit.
- 2) Begin by RESTATING the prompt/question. This is very important. Be sure to actually answer the question, don't just "write a lot." Stay on topic!
- 3) Follow the template below. Memorize the format and fill in the blanks on test day!

### Short Response Template

<p>_____</p> <p>(Restate the prompt in a complete sentence; include title/author and an inference, statement, claim, conclusion)</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>According to the text, _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>This shows that _____</p> <p>The text also states that _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>This shows that _____</p> <p>In conclusion, _____</p> <p>_____</p>
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**Extended Responses (essays):**

You need to write 4 or 5 paragraphs. If you write only one paragraph, I will CRY!! ☹

Follow the template below. Memorize it, and fill in the blanks on test day!!

<p><b>Intro Paragraph:</b> Restate the prompt; answer the question</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____.</p>
<p><b>Paragraph #2 – the first bullet (cover it completely!)</b></p> <p><b>Introductory Sentence</b></p> <p>_____.</p> <p><u>According to the text,</u> _____</p> <p>_____ (lines __ - __).</p> <p>This means/shows that _____.</p> <p><u>The text also states,</u> “ _____ ” (lines __ - __).</p> <p>This proves/reveals that _____.</p> <p><b>Concluding Sentence</b></p> <p>_____.</p>
<p><b>Paragraph #3 – the second bullet (cover it completely!)</b></p> <p><b>Introductory Sentence</b></p> <p>_____.</p> <p><u>According to the text,</u> _____</p> <p>_____ (lines __ - __).</p> <p>This means/shows that _____.</p> <p><u>The text also states,</u> “ _____ ” (lines __ - __).</p> <p>This proves/reveals that _____.</p> <p><b>Concluding Sentence</b></p> <p>_____.</p>
<p><b>Conclusion Paragraph:</b> sum up your main points (restate the prompt in different words)</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____.</p>

**Grammar/Mechanics:**

This part of your score will come from your short responses and the essays. You will need to do the following as you write EVERYTHING:

- 1) Write in complete sentences (Start with a capital letter; End with punctuation).
- 2) Complete sentences are NOT fragments or run-ons. They are complete thoughts!
- 3) Use capitalization correctly.
- 4) Write neatly!!! If they cannot read it EASILY, they will give you a terrible score!
- 5) Go back and re-read your work. Check for mistakes in spelling, punctuation, using the wrong word, etc. Try to use sophisticated vocabulary! ☺

Key Words/Terms to Know:

**Literary Elements/Devices**

Term/Device/Element	What is it?	Example/Explanation
-simile		
-metaphor		
-personification		
-hyperbole		
-first-person point of view		
-third-person omniscient point of view		
-alliteration		
-imagery		
-speaker		
-narrator		
-mood/tone		
-author's purpose		
-text structure		
-central theme		
-setting		

-plot		
-conflict		
-onomatopoeia		
-rhyme scheme		
-irony		

### **Test Terminology**

“best supports the development of the plot” (or the development of the article)	-Why are these lines an important part of the story/article?
“illustrates” or “reveals”	-shows
“not supported by the article”	-Which detail is not in there? Which answer choice does not fit the overall message of the article?
“the article suggests”	-The article says, or the author is trying to say...
“expresses the author’s view”	-Which statement seems to agree with the author?
“all of the following EXCEPT”	-find the ONE choice that doesn’t fit or is not true