



# Fiction

## Critical Reading Responses

Each response should be **400 words**, typed, in MLA style.

While these responses are not essays, you should respond critically to the prompt in a few **developed, concise paragraphs**. Remember that paragraphs contain topic sentences, explanations of the topic, and examples to support explanations. Each response should contain at **least two examples** from the text that are **properly cited** in the text using **MLA form**.

### 1. **Author Background / Due:** \_\_\_\_\_

What can you discuss about the author that would help to understand the book? Consider the author's societal influences, upbringing, education, experiences, political leanings, etc. Find the author's publication history; is this the first book the author has had published, or is this book number 12 in a series of 37? **Tips:** Once you learn about the author's background make assertions (claims) about how these influences appear in the writing of the book. Make connections between the author's life and what is written in terms of theme, plot, characters and tone.

### 2. **Style / Due:** \_\_\_\_\_

Briefly discuss the style and structure of your novel. **Tips:** How is your novel set up--into long parts or short chapters? Are letters or poems used? Any images? How does this structure enhance the text for the reader? Is the story told in past or present tense, and who tells it? Why is this an effective way to tell this story? To what extent is dialogue used? What effect does the inclusion of dialogue have on the text? How does the author use literary devices (symbolism, imagery, metaphor, etc.) to develop the story? Explain how the author's use of diction (word choice) and syntax (sentence structure) makes reading this text appropriately challenging for you.

### 3. **Character Analysis / Due:** \_\_\_\_\_

Use literary terms relevant to character analysis to discuss the development of the primary characters in the novel. **Tips:** Briefly describe the roles these characters play. Why do they behave the way they do? Why do they want what they want? Think about how the characters change throughout the course of the novel and why the author might have chosen for the characters to end up as they did. How does the author make the characters sympathetic and relatable?

### 4. **Conflict / Due:** \_\_\_\_\_

What conflicts (use literary terminology) do the characters face in this novel? What commentary does the author make through the inclusion of these conflicts? **Tips:** There are many types of conflict, and often a single character can get tangled in a web of conflict among many other characters and forces. Pick one or two characters to analyze in terms of the conflicts they face. What statement is the author making by writing about these conflicts and how they are resolved? Are any conflicts left unresolved? If so, what statement is the author making by leaving these conflicts unresolved?