**HONORS 11 ENGLISH – READER RESPONSE NOTEBOOK (RRN)**

**Purpose:** Writers must write for readers. But they also must write for themselves. And some of the highest quality creative writing and analytical writing comes from the close reading of a situation or a text. Critical thinking skills strengthen a writer’s ability to observe through surface distractions and record revealing details. In order to become an eagle-eyed reader, you must reflect on, question, and write about what you have seen and read on a regular basis.

**Materials:** A black and white marbled composition notebook, a pen, and a highlighter.

**Directions:** ANYTIME YOU ARE ASSIGNED TO READ A TEXT, you are expected to have your Reader Response Notebook (RRN) right next to you as you read.

For each reading, you will complete your RRN entry. There may be times when you will exchange your RRN with a classmate and write a reaction to one another’s responses. Keep in mind that anything in your RRN will be read by the instructor and possibly by your classmates.

Each standard RRN entry has two parts. The first ½ page is dedicated to outlining your structure. Then you will compose at least a two-page response to address one of the four types of connections.

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<th>PART I: STRUCTURE:</th>
<th>RESPONSE: 2 pg length minimum. Use correct PPP technique.</th>
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<td>about ½ pg in length</td>
<td><strong>PC</strong> – Period Connection – How this work reflects the historical, philosophical, or cultural ideas of its time period.</td>
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<td><strong>TC</strong> – Thematic Connection – Note a theme in the work or how this work relates to the themes of other works from another time period.</td>
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<td><strong>IC</strong> – Individual Connection – Personal, narrative connections between the text and your personal world.</td>
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<td><strong>LE</strong> – Literary Elements – Note the author’s use of a literary device, such as characterization, irony, imagery patterns, symbolism, and foreshadowing.</td>
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1. Outline your main idea.
2. Sketch out your evidence.
3. Do it in order.
4. Be specific.
Format: At the top of each page, date your entry and write down title or section you are responding to. Place the provided symbols in the margins next to your entries. Entries must be hand-written and legible. Plagiarism of any kind will result in a zero for the assignment.

Grading: Specific RRN’s homework assignments will be randomly checked for points on days that they are due. In addition, the teacher will often begin class by asking individuals to share something they wrote in their RRN the night before. If you are not prepared, you may receive a zero for that day’s work.

Each selected entry is judged by its focus, organization, content, writing style, and adherence to the conventions of the English language. Correct paragraphing technique will be strictly observed. An excellent writer constantly refers to the text and proves they know the material. An excellent writer establishes clear LOGOS and strong PATHOS to create solid ETHOS with the reader.

SAMPLE ENTRY FOR PART I
AP: The gods can easily kill you.
   - Use backstory of how gods behaved during the Trojan War.
   -
Proof: “Now Zeus…” (66-68)
   “Heaven gave them…” 123

SAMPLE ENTRY FOR COLUMN B:
11/22/07 – The Odyssey, Chapter 1
TC Many events in The Odyssey prove that “It is no hard thing for the gods of heaven to glorify a man or bring him low.” The gods could act upon a whim in a short moment, and often the gods felt little remorse for man’s sufferings. When Odysseus won the war with the help of the gods and goddesses, the deities brought honor to the man. However, the gods who favored Troy became angry and vowed Odysseus would not return to Ithaca, cursing him to wander the sea with great hardships for ten years. Odysseus went from war hero to questionable wanderer of the sea. Another example was the experience of Odysseus’ men on the Ciccones’ islands. Although Zeus brought the men victory for that night, their hedonistic ways caused them to stay and celebrate. The result was a retaliation from inland and many deaths. Homer described the brutal night on the sea to follow the loss: “Now Zeus the lord of the cloud roused in the north / a storm against the ships, and driving veils / of squall moved down like night on land and sea” (66-68). Yet, after this event, the men stop at an island and it is noted that “Heaven gave [them] game aplenty” (123). Also when Odysseus offered a ram to Zeus from Cyclops, Zeus disdained it; he had destruction and death in mind for the ship and those on it. Yet, after many more hardships brought on by the gods, Odysseus returns home and regains every inch of his glory.