

Dear Students,

This year, you and I will write letter to each other about books, authors, and reading strategies that will help us learn together. The letter will help you learn more about reading and writing. When you write letters in your WORM notebook, do your best work and share your best thinking.

Every entry **MUST** have:

1. Attached **ThinkMark** (sticky note on the top corner) with at least 5 Jot notes of ideas
2. Written in Letter Format (Date, Greeting, Body, Conclusion)
3. Content – minimum of 3 paragraphs (Summary, Reading Strategies, Conclusion)

Letter Content:

- a. Paragraph 1 - **Summary** (including the title of the text and author)
*A summary identifies the main ideas in the text and includes details that support the main idea.
- b. Paragraph 2 – **Reading Strategies**
Describe what you did before, during, and after reading (how you activated your prior knowledge, made predictions, visualized, and asked yourself questions). Give examples from the text.
- c. Paragraph 3 - **Conclusion**
Write about connections you made to personal knowledge and experiences, to other familiar texts, and to the world around you.
 - Text to Self - Did something similar happen to you? What would you do in the same situation, and why?
 - Text to Text - Does something remind you of another book (characters, vocabulary, events, illustrations)?
 - Text to World - Does it remind you of something that happened in the news?

The content must include a summary, reading strategies, and connection; however, it may also include:

- Inferences - Can you make assumptions about what is implied but not stated?
 - What are the characters are like? What are the reasons for a character's actions?
 - How do characters feel? What is the mood the author is trying to create?
- Analysis - Explain how the author used different parts in the text to influence you. Think about the title, something that surprised you or that you found interesting, what you noticed about the characters, such as what made them act as they did or how they changed.
- Evaluations - Can you draw conclusions about the purpose/strength of ideas in the text based on evidence?
 - What is the author's purpose? Are the ideas being fairly presented? Is there another viewpoint?
 - Did you like or dislike the text and why?

Write a letter to me every 2 weeks. The completed letter is due on the day indicated on the calendar. It is important that your letters are neat and easy to read so I can understand what you are thinking. Read through your letter to make sure that it says all you want it to say before you hand it in to me.

When I read your letter, I will respond to your ideas with a few of my thoughts and/or questions. In order to fully reflect on your reading and expand your thoughts, you are expected to respond back to my comments **before** you begin a new letter.

Assessment will be based on the rubric attached to your notebook and conferences with me. I will be reading your notebooks to see if you have a strong understanding of what you have read by utilizing some of the reading strategies. Since we are focusing on paragraph writing, you will also be assessed on your writing skills, particularly your development of ideas and organization.

Eager to read your letter,
Mrs. Bader