Grade 8 Writing Extensions

As you read, take notes on the book. You may use any method you are comfortable with to take notes (Post-its, bullet points, etc.). These notes should help you understand the book as well as help you write your Journal Entry.

Reaction Paragraphs:

Remember that reactions are not summaries. These are your opportunity to react to the reading. Write what surprised you in the reading. Discuss connections, changes, struggles, etc. Use proper paragraph and sentence structure.

Character Analysis: Try this for the main character and at least one other character.

Choose a significant passage from the novel that describes your character and be sure to include the page number of the passage. Explain why you chose this passage. Does this passage describe the character? Does it tell about the character's moral/important decisions? Explain your choice fully.

Next, describe the purpose of the character. Some questions to consider: Why were they created by the author? What do they reveal about the story? What do they reveal about the other characters? What do they reveal about the community? What does this character reveal about the times? What does this character reveal about the values of the community, other characters, times, etc.? What is their function to the novel and the theme of the novel?

Novel Quotes: Write one paragraph for each quote you choose.

Choose three quotes from the novel that identify a developing theme or lesson in your novel. It can be a quote about a significant moment, a revelation, an event, etc. that relates to the theme. Include the page number of the quote. Then, explain why you chose this quote, and provide examples and other ideas to back up your ideas. Explain the developing theme/moral/lesson and how it relates to the characters.

Vocabulary:

Choose words that you are unfamiliar with or are interesting in some way. Look up each definition to familiarize yourself with the word. Then, write each word in an appropriate 8th grade sentence that uses the word correctly.