**Ideas for what to write about in your reading response**

**Guidelines for Discussion of Literary (FICTION) Elements**

**Author: Who is the author of your book?**

* Have you ever read any other book by this author?
* What do you know about the author? How can you tell?
* What is the author trying to tell you in this book/article?
* What sorts of things does the author like or dislike? How do you know?

**Characters: Who is/are the main character(s) in the story?**

* Do you like them? Tell me why. Do you dislike them? Tell me why.
* Who are the minor characters?
* Choose one character. Why is this character important in the story?
* Do you know anyone like the characters in the book?
* What problems do the characters have?
* Do any of the characters change? In what way?
* Who was your favorite character? Why?
* Do any of the characters do things that you think are good?
* Do any of the characters do things that you think are bad?
* What does the main character want?
* Do any of the characters in the story remind you of characters in other stories you have read?

**Plot: How did the story begin?**

* Tell me the main things that happened in the story?
* Were you able to guess what was going to happen at the end?
* How did the story end?
* What was the most exciting part of the story?
* What events led to the most exciting part?
* Can you think of another way the story might have ended/ happened

**Setting: Where does the story take place?**

* Tell me what the place was like?
* Have you ever been to a place like that?
* How is the setting important to this story?
* Does the story take place in more than one setting?
* Why do you think the author picked this place for the setting?
* How would the story be different if it took place in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_?
* Did the story take place a long time ago, in the future, or now? How do you know?

**Mood: How did you feel while reading the story?**

* How did the author convey that mood or feeling?
* What was the funniest/saddest part?
* What was the most exciting thing that happened or the strangest thing that happened?
* What do you most remember about the story?
* What can you learn about creating mood from the author?

**Style:**

* What special words did the author use to help you see (hear/feel/smell/ or taste
* What was happening in the story?
* Tell me about any pictures that the author left in your mind?
* What do you like about the way the author has written this story?
* What can you learn about style from the author?

**Theme:**

* Why do you think the author wrote this story?
* Do you think there is a message/theme in this story? What is the message/theme?
* How can this message help you in your own life?

**Illustrations. Who is the illustrator?**

* Do you like the illustrations? Why or why not?
* Do the illustrations help the author convey the mood, the setting, or the theme?
* If the illustrations were not there, would the author need to add more words? Why?