Create a community of readers with the Book Blog Writing Activity Center. This interactive reader response center is a great way to get students thinking about, and responding to, the literature they read. Students read and post their responses to questions about any book, building important reading comprehension skills. Classmates post their comments, creating a dialog about their reading experiences and practicing literary analysis skills in the process.

What’s Included?
The Book Blog Writing Activity Center includes:
- Computer-themed center chart
- 20 Double-sided, open-ended reading comprehension question cards (40 prompts)
- Teacher Guide including reproducible pages for Reader Response posts, Comment posts, and Read This One! and Amazing Author posts

Question Cards
The Book Blog question cards consist of 40 writing prompts that cover five literary elements. Look for the icon on the card for a quick way to identify the element.

- **Plot** (cards 1–8): These prompts help students identify the main plot in a story, including the story’s problems and conflicts, climax, and resolution.
- **Character** (cards 9–18): These prompts help students develop an understanding of how different characters think and feel. Students use the prompts to study characters’ actions, feelings, and motives. Students evaluate relationships between major and minor characters and realize how different characters contribute to a story.
- **Setting** (cards 19–24): These prompts help students understand that time, place, and circumstances are all parts of a story’s setting. Students identify the setting and determine how it affects the story’s plot.
- **Theme and More** (cards 25–30): These prompts help students explore literary elements such as theme and author’s purpose. Students also use the prompts to examine how authors effectively use words to evoke certain responses from their readers.
- **Books and Me** (cards 31–40): These prompts encourage students to make connections between what they read and their own lives, enriching their reading experience.

Reproducible Pages
The reproducible pages in this guide provide the following:
- **Reader Response post** lets students respond to the writing prompts displayed on the question cards. Students answer the prompt based on a story they have read and include a drawing of themselves in the box.
- **Comment post** lets students comment on their classmates’ Reader Response posts. Students post a comment and include a drawing of themselves. Most of the time students will be commenting on posts about books they too have read. However, this is not always necessary. (See Comment post on the next page.)
- **Amazing Author** lets students write about their favorite authors.
- **Read This One!** lets students share books they’ve enjoyed. This is a great way for other students to learn about books they might like.
Getting Started

Familiarize students with the Book Blog Writing Activity Center by working on a prompt together:

1. Choose a question card you would like students to answer. Read the prompt aloud, reviewing any necessary terms. Display the prompt in the bottom pocket of the chart.
2. Work as a class to write a sample reader response, using a story your class is reading or has read recently. (See tips below.) Display the response in one of the pockets at the left.
3. Work together to write a comment. (See tips below.) Post the comment in a pocket to the right of the reader response.

Tips for Using the Reproducible Pages

Students can post to the Book Blog in several different ways. Be sure to go over the kind of writing that is expected for each type of post. Then, place copies of the reproducibles in containers near the Book Blog.

Reader Response post

• Tell students that they should identify the story in the first sentence of the post. For example, they might write, “The character from E. B. White’s Charlotte’s Web that I would most like to be friends with is Wilbur the pig.”

REMIND STUDENTS TO AVOID ONE-WORD RESPONSES AND TO INCLUDE EXPLANATIONS FOR THEIR ANSWERS. For example, if they write that they’d like Wilbur as a friend, they might continue, “He is fun to be with, and he cares about his friends.”

Comment post:

• Tell students to identify the book and post they are commenting on.
• Remind students to comment in a respectful, thoughtful manner.
• Explain that students can do one of the following:
  - Agree or disagree with a reader response, and explain why.
  - Tell how the response affected them. (“Your response made me look at Wilbur in a different way. I never thought about Wilbur as being much fun.” “I never read Charlotte’s Web, but I’d like to now. The book sounds interesting.”)
  - Add new information or another opinion. “I’d want Wilbur as a friend, too, but it’s because he seems like a little kid, just like me.”

Amazing Author and Read This One! posts:

• Invite students to post information about a favorite author or book.
• After the information has been posted for a while, collect the papers and store them in a binder or display them on a bulletin board so that the class can refer to them in the future.

Suggestions for Assigning and Tracking Student Work

Adapt the Book Blog Writing Activity Center to fit your classroom routines and the needs of your students. Here are some suggestions:

• Assign the whole class one prompt. Later, display three responses at a time, changing them every so often. As responses are posted, let groups of students comment on them.
• Assign three students to write reader responses to one prompt. Assign the remainder of the class to post comments.
• Let a group of students volunteer to write reader responses to one prompt and let another group volunteer to write comments.
• Track student progress throughout the year by keeping all written responses in individual folders or having students glue their already-displayed responses in their own journals.
• Make a class chart for each prompt like the one below. Use the chart to check off the names of students who have written reader responses or comments.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prompt 1</th>
<th>Reader Response</th>
<th>Comment</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Aaron A.</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td>3/5</td>
<td>Wrote about Wilbur/Charlotte’s Web</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Carla H.</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>3/6</td>
<td>Commented on Tony’s response</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Keesha H.</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td>3/5</td>
<td>Commented on Aaron’s response</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Tony J.</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>3/7</td>
<td>Wrote about Mrs. Frisby</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Read This One!

Title _______________________

Author _____________________

Main character(s) ___________

It’s about ___________________

Why I liked it ______________

What I learned ______________

One-word description __________

Amazing Author

Name: ______________________

Books I’ve Read ______________

What I like about this author’s writing __________________

Favorite book __________________

Favorite character _____________