

## AP Lit. – Farris

### Reading Response (RR)

The RR is required for each reading homework assignment. Make the RR a productive part of your homework routine. Try to be in the habit of having your text and your RR on your desk as soon as class begins. Occasionally, students will be allowed to use their RR on a quiz. Reading Responses should help students review for tests and contribute to class discussion.

#### Format:

One Page / Four Sections –

1. Pen or typed
2. Label the four sections
3. Skip lines between sections
4. Please limit to one page

At the top of each Reading Response, please include:

- Your full name,
  - The title of the text,
  - The reading assignment,
  - The class period,
  - The date
1. **Brief Summary** of reading assignment either by chapter, scene or combined; the form may be outline or complete sentence or fragments. Highlight main character's development, any new characters, and main action.
  2. **Questions for Class Discussion:** literal, inferential, abstract
    - a. **Literal:** right there on the page; you can put your finger on the answer; this is what the author says
    - b. **Inferential:** reading between the lines; more than one possible answer; what we think the author says
    - c. **Abstract:** judging and evaluating validity of a concept or point; what we think about what the author says; a degree of right or wrong
  3. **One Significant Quotation:** include page number, act and scene, and speaker. Be ready to explain the reason you chose the quotation as well as the significance of the quotation itself.
  4. **Reaction / Response:** additional thoughts, questions, or responses to the reading – including class discussion notes.

## Sample Reading Response

Willie Pass  
"How Agassiz Taught  
Shaler"  
Reading Response  
Per. 2  
11-7-06

### 1. Brief Summary

The author provides a brief background of Agassiz, the professor, and how the author, Shaler, the student, comes to know Agassiz. The first assignment issued: to study a small fish in a tin pan in the lab. Although the author believes he has learned all the secrets of the fish in an hour, his teacher does not. He must keep looking at and examining the fish. The author works harder and more meticulously. Finally, the pupil comes to a new understanding of both the professor and of learning.

### 2. Questions

**Literal:** What are Shaler's first observations of the fish?

**Inferential:** What is Shaler's tone in this excerpt?

**Abstract:** Why does Agassiz use such an unorthodox teaching style and not explain it to his student up front?

### 3. Key Quotation:

"My boy, there are now two of us who know that." (P. 1)

This quotation marks the epiphany for both Shaler and the readers.

### 4. Reaction / Response and Class Notes:

- Lots of typos - distracting
- Reminds me of Mr. Miyagi from *The Karate Kid* ("Wax on, wax off.")
- First half of story was unnecessary
- There is always more to something than what first meets the eye
- We must keep going back to the text. Reflect on meaning. Close reading is active reading.
- Teacher / Student relationships require trust on both sides
- Look at things in a new way
- What is author's intent?
- What is close reading?