

Reader's Response Letter Example

The goal of a reader's response letter is to tell your teacher about the book you have been reading, and share some of the deep thinking you've been doing!

Begin your letter with a salutation or greeting.

Dear Students,

Include the title and author.

I recently read a mysterious picture book by Chris Van Allsburg, entitled The Stranger. The story begins when Farmer Bailey accidentally hits a man with his car. The man is unable to speak, and acts quite strangely, so Farmer Bailey brings him home to stay with his family while he recovers. Over the course of several weeks, many strange things occur while the "stranger" is at the Baileys' home, and the family struggles to figure out who this unusual man really is.

Separate your main ideas into different paragraphs. Remember to indent!

Briefly summarize the text in your introduction. Give your reader "the gist" of the story.

I was able to visualize several scenes from the story in my mind. One image that really stuck out to me was when the stranger climbed to the top of a tall hill. The text said, "The trees in the distance were bright red and orange. But the trees to the south, like those around the Bailey's, were nothing but shades of green" (pg.23). I could imagine the bright, vivid colors of the trees in the distance, like the ones that appear in Autumn in Vermont. This visualization also led me to ask some questions. Why were the trees near the Bailey's house still green? I think it must have something to do with the stranger.

Share some of the thinking you've been doing while reading. Use your "stop & jot" post-it notes to help you!

Begin each paragraph with a topic sentence, so your reader knows what you will be focusing on.

While I read this book I made many inferences to try and figure out who the stranger is. There were several clues in the book that helped me. For example, when the stranger blew on his hot soup, Mrs. Bailey shivered. She thought there was a draft in the house. Also, the doctor thought that his thermometer was broken because "the mercury (was) stuck at the bottom" (pg.7). I noticed that both of these situations involve the cold. I was starting to think that the stranger might be Jack Frost! I know from my background knowledge that according to the legend, Jack Frost appears every fall and brings the coming of winter. This inference makes sense, because after the stranger left, "The air had turned cold, and the leaves on the trees were no longer green" (pg. 25).

Wrap up your letter with a conclusion. Express your opinion or final thoughts about the book.

Include specific examples, details, and quotes from the text. Don't forget the page numbers!

This was a really interesting book that made me ask lots of questions. I liked how the author gave clues to help me infer who the Stranger was, but never actually came out and told us the answer!

Close your letter and sign your name.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Rogner

Reread and edit your writing to ensure you've used correct spelling, capitalization, grammar, and punctuation!