Independent reading Journals

Reading journals are a good way to check and see how you progress through a novel. There are five journal entries you will be completing as you work your way through the book of your choice, but you can complete them at your own pace. They are due when you complete your independent novel study project. **Each entry should be about 250-300 words.**

5 Journal Entries (Minimal Structure):

**Journal Entry #1:**

You should now be about 50 pages or so (the first bit) into the book. Answer these questions to help you. In any case, should you desire to go off the structured questions and do a personal journal entry based on the book, I would be okay with this as well.

1. Is this book worth it to continue? (50-page rule.) Why?
2. What hooked you to this book in the first place?
3. How is the initial characterization / plot / action? Explain.
4. Talk about your reactions so far. Make connections to other books you’ve read.

**Journal Entries #2 / #3 / #4:**

These three journal entries are stamping your continual progress as a reader through this book. Keep in mind your fluctuating emotions as you read – your engagement and your connections to the characters and world the author has created.

1. Focus on the main character, or a supporting character. Follow their character arc as they progress through the novel. Do they say or do things that surprise you? Anger you? Explain.
2. Look at the archetypes of the book. Do you notice any similarities to other books you have read? Is this a genre book?
3. Look at specific passages from the text you like. Why do you like them? Is there a deeper meaning in which you can see this text? (This is called *subtext*. The words that are unwritten but alluded to.)

**Journal Entry #5:**

1. Now that you have finished the book, what are your reactions to your completion? What can you take away from the text? Did the book have a good ending or was it ‘anticlimactic’?
2. What is the best way in which you can show your understanding of the book on a deeper level? Look at the independent novel study projects as an example.
3. Would you read other books by this author? Would you read similar books of this genre? Check out www.goodreads.com to research similar books.