

## Read this Quick Guide to Personal Responses.

Here are three easy steps to help you create an effective personal response to a text.



### STEP 1: The Meaning of the Text

*What is the author trying to say? What details from the text support this idea?*

This step is not a retelling of what happens. Instead, ask yourself questions about *why* the text unfolds as it does:

- In your opinion, what is the author's purpose for creating the text?
- What is it really about?
- What words, phrases, or short passages support the main idea?



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### STEP 2: Personal Connection

*In this step, try to make a connection between the key idea in the text and an event from your own experience.*

- What does the text say to you personally?
- Identify a specific moment in your own life that will help you to interpret the experience of the text.
- If you cannot think of a moment in your own experience, you may have to go to experiences of other people close to you – your siblings, parents, or grandparents, or more distant relatives, or even beyond your family to neighbours or friends. You may relate to a book you have read or a film you have seen or to art, music, or other human expressions.
- You may also feel compelled to connect experiences that demonstrate the opposite of the author's ideas.



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The purpose of your personal connection is to have you consider another perspective. It is another way to interpret and to attempt to understand the ideas at the heart of the text and the impact the ideas can have on your life.

### STEP 3: Reading Beyond the Text

*Why is it important? How does it relate to the world today?*

In this step, you need to apply the author's message to our world, beyond the text.

- In what ways do the author's ideas reflect on the world today?
- Are the issues important, not only to the author and to you personally, but to all people? And if so, in what way are they important?



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#### STEP 3

- Think beyond the text.
- Why is it important?
- How does this relate to others in the world?



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#### STEP 2

- Make a personal connection to the text.
- Connect the key idea in the text and an incident from one's own experience (from your life or someone you know).



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#### STEP 1

- Figure out the meaning of the text.
- What is the author trying to say?
- What details from the text support the main idea?