

Independent reading

Mr. Dempsey

English 7

**Log Letters**

Every other week you will be writing about your independent reading book. Your log letters are to be written in friendly letter format to a classmate, myself, or someone at home. Your goal is to write about your book in a thoughtful and meaningful manner. You need to tell a bit about your book's premise, and then focus in on something specific that you would like to discuss. **THESE LETTERS ARE NOT SUMMARIES.** Here is a sample letter from a student. Notice the length and structure of the letter.

January 1, 2002

Dear Dad,

This week I've been reading J.R.R. Tolkien's The Fellowship of the Rings. It is a sequel to The Hobbit and the first book in The Lord of the Rings trilogy. In this book Bilbo Baggins, a hobbit, is celebrating his "eleventy first" birthday (111 years) and is going away to live somewhere else in his final years. Frodo, Bilbo's adopted heir, is left to take his place.

In the beginning of this book Bilbo did something that reminded me of me. Bilbo, before going off to his final resting place, was forced to give up his magical ring, that when worn turned him invisible. Bilbo did not want to give it up and felt sad when he finally did.

I'm sort of the same way when it comes to possessions. I can't give up a single thing. It either reminds me of a time I don't want to forget, or a place, and when I finally have to give it up I feel as if a piece of me were missing. This is why my room is so cluttered, as is Bilbo's entire house. But in my mind, as in Bilbo's, I know it must go.

Sincerely,

# Log Letter Topics

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English 7

Here are some ideas you can use to help get you started writing your log letter. You can focus on the topics below or make up your own. Remember to give me enough background on your book so that I understand what is going on.

1. Something that made you laugh - explain ...
2. Something that made you cry - explain ... (why? what did it remind you of? etc.)
3. Something that made you angry - explain...
4. Something that made you happy - explain...
5. something that bored you - explain ...
6. Something that confused you - explain ...
7. Something that you didn't expect - explain ...
8. Something that made you think about an issue you never thought about before ...
9. Something you would have done differently
10. Something about a character that reminds you of yourself, or someone you know. What is it?
11. Describe a particularly good passage. Why did you enjoy it so much? Did it create vivid images in your mind? Describe one ...
12. What does a character look like? Describe with adjectives ... Draw a picture ...
13. Do you have a favorite setting? Describe it or draw it. Why is it your favorite?
14. Does a character, element of the plot, theme, or anything else from the book remind you of another book, short story, or article you've read? Have you seen any movies that remind you of this book?
15. Would you recommend this book to a friend? How would you rate this book on a scale of one (poor) to ten (fantastic?) Give good reasons for your judgment.