# **Intro to American & British Lit: Reading Responses**

Good writing has good ideas and good thinking. It is clear, precise, and concise. Make your answers reflect these qualities.

Do NOT summarize the story or include long quotes. I know the story well. Instead, react and respond to ideas in the story. Why are they important or interesting or worth thinking about? How do the ideas in the story connect to your life and experienceWhat questions do you have? (Not “what questions might impress the teacher?”

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| English name (optional) |  | | Date | | 2024/7/23 |
| Reading Response to Book/Chapters | | About how long did this take to read? | | | 20h |
|  | | How difficult was it? (0-5)  (0 = easy …5 = impossible to understand) | | | 4 |
| How interesting was it? (0-5)  (0 = so boring … 5 = loved it) | | | 5 |
| New vocabulary/language | | | | | |
| **10+ Words I needed to look up** (with brief English definition) | | | | **10+ Words I guessed the meaning of** (with your guess) | |
| **puny** : small and weak in size or strength  **dangling** : Hanging loosely or limply; not fixed firmly or supported.  **rippled** : (verb) to form or cause to form a series of small waves or undulations  **rutted** : having grooves or channels, typically caused by erosion or wear.  **Shimmering** : Glistening or sparkling with a soft, wavering light.  **Exhilaration** : A feeling of great happiness and excitement.  **Regicide** : The act of killing a king or ruler.  **Guardian** : A person who protects or takes care of something or someone.  **exiled** : forced to leave a place or situation, often permanently  **Wheedling** : Persuading or attempting to persuade someone by using persistent coaxing or flattery.  **repented** : felt remorse or regret for a past action  **Hurtling** : Moving at high speed in a headlong manner. | | | | **goggle-eyed** : wide-eyed with surprise  **Baripity** : sound of excitement or joy  **Scuba** : device for diving  **Quivering** : shaking slightly  **Padding** : adding  **Foundling** : abandoned baby  **Paralyzed** : unable to move  **Squenched** : squeezed  **Dredging** : retrieving memories  **Cremated** : turned to ashes  **Bongoing** : beating rapidly  **knighted** : given a title of honor | |
| Ideas from this reading that would be interesting to discuss | | | | | |
| 1. What is the meaning of the bridge? I think it is a point worth discussing. I want to summarize this book as "through each other, finally getting a new life", I don't know if it is right. From a positive perspective, Lesslie is the bridge for Jess to know and achieve himself. Because of Lesslie, Jess becomes optimistic and cheerful, and because of Lesslie, Jess is no longer closed and cowardly. From a negative perspective, because of Jess, Lesslie is no longer lonely. So it is more appropriate to say that Jess and Lesslie are the bridges that help each other achieve success. 2. I think the characterization of this novel is particularly interesting. There is no perfect good person in this book, and no one is so bad that he has no merits. Although this is a novel with a lot of imagination, this writing style is exactly in line with real life - everyone is so flesh and blood. 3. I can empathize with the character Jess. Every child like Jess has a little stubbornness in his heart, a dream that cannot be expressed for fear of being laughed at, a desire for understanding, a desire for communication, and a desire for an outlet. Every boy is Jess, but not every Jess can meet Leslie, so I think Jess is very lucky, so lucky that I always realize that I am reading a fairy tale rather than a novel. 4. More thoughts about Jess. I wondered about the author's inspiration for writing this novel. Was the author also a Jess like this? Just like when I was a child, on a sunny afternoon, I would find a gap in the dense woods and open a passage, imagining that it was my kingdom, and I was infinitely satisfied. That kind of happiness is something I can no longer experience now. I wondered if the author had such a reverie when he was writing. | | | | | |
| Questions about the story (include language, culture, story) | | | | | |
| 1. In the last chapter, there is a paragraph (seemingly a stroke of genius) describing the transformation of the teacher, Mrs. Miles, and the quiet change in Jesse's attitude towards the teacher. Are all the prejudices between teachers and students resolved because of Leslie's death? 2. I noticed the change in the atmosphere of chapters 8-11 of the novel. In Chapter 8, "Easter", death is discussed through little Mabel and the heroine Leslie. In Chapter 9, there is the cursed heavy rain. The atmosphere of these two chapters is very depressing. However, Chapter 10, "A Perfect Day", describes how the music teacher invites little Jesse to the museum to see an art exhibition and spend a pleasant and happy day. The first two chapters are very depressing, but suddenly there comes a bright and joyful chapter, which is like a person's last glimpse before death. Finally, Chapter 11 throws out the cruel reality - the death of Leslie. Is this kind of emotional change deliberately arranged by the author? I think this seems to be the climax of the novel. | | | | | |
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I confirm that I have read the English version.