# **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 | | 2024/7/19 |
| Reading Response to Book/Chapters | | About how long did this take to read? | | | 6h |
|  | | 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) | |
| **progging : The act of searching for crabs by pushing a pointed tool into the mud or sand near the water's edge to disturb the crabs and make them move, allowing them to be caught.**  **Porthole : A window in a ship or aircraft, or a means of access or understanding into a situation or subject.**  **elegant : pleasingly graceful and stylish in appearance or manner**  **predawn : before the break of dawn**  **knotted : tightly twisted or tied together**  **tonging : The act of using tongs, typically in the context of harvesting oysters or other shellfish.**  **\*\*valise : a small traveling bag or suitcase, typically made of leather.\*\***  **undefinable : incapable of being precisely or clearly defined or described**  **sawhorses : supports for holding wood steady while it is being cut or worked on**  **progging : The act of using a tool to dig or scoop, often used in the context of fishing or hunting for crabs by digging into the mud or sand.**  **\*\*saboteur : a person who intentionally destroys or damages something, especially for political or military reasons\*\***  **ramshackle : In a state of great disrepair or disorder; dilapidated or broken down.**  **mimeographed : reproduced by a process involving the use of a stencil and ink, typically used for duplicating documents before the advent of photocopying.**  **Humane : Marked by compassion, sympathy, or consideration for humans or animals.**  **Paregoric : A medicinal solution containing opium, used to treat diarrhea and reduce pain or anxiety.**  **Leeward : Toward the side away from the direction from which the wind is blowing.**  **Capricious : Subject to, led by, or indicating caprice; impulsive and unpredictable.**  **vital : extremely important or necessary**  **blameless : free from blame or guilt**  **adamant : resolutely or unyieldingly determined**  **\*\*wicker :\*\* A material made from thin branches, usually used for making furniture or baskets.**  **hawking : offering for sale in an aggressive or conspicuous manner**  **perfunctorily : done without much effort or interest, often just to fulfill a duty or requirement**  **conniving : Scheming or plotting in a sly and usually deceitful way.**  **Culling : The process of sorting through items to select the best or remove the inferior.**  **\*\*sweltering : extremely hot and causing discomfort\*\***  **inanities : trivial or nonsensical talk or writing**  **gnarled : twisted, rough, or intricate, typically as a result of aging or growth.**  **Radiant : Emitting great joy or happiness; shining brightly.**  **petulantly : behaving or complaining in an irritable manner**  **Matter-of-factly : In a practical and straightforward manner; without emotional expression.**  **Impetus : The force or energy with which a body moves; momentum.**  **---------------**  **progging : crabbing**  **P-sychiatrist : Mental doctor**  **Strenuously : Intensely**  **lugubriously : mournfully**  **Machinations : Scheming**  **Cordgrass : Grass**  **on'ry : poor or lowly**  **tonging : harvesting oysters**  **Valise : Suitcase**  **tonged : harvested**  **Counterspy : Person who works against spies**  **Periscope : Telescope**  **Progging : Digging**  **Exultation : Joy**  **Boomerang : Throwing stick that returns to the thrower**  **ramshackle : dilapidated**  **unproscribed : unregulated**  **Aberrations : Deviations**  **Gunnysacks : Sacks made of burlap or gunny cloth, used for carrying or storing items.**  **Gunnysacks : Sacks made of burlap or gunny cloth**  **Paregoric : Medicine**  **Leeward : Protected from the wind**  **bejeebers : nonsense**  **Pond's-caressed : gently touched**  **bedevil : trouble**  **Hiram : A male name, likely the Captain's first name**  **tump : small mound**  **Uncommonly : Not commonly**  **Handling : Managing**  **hawking : selling**  **Destitute : Poor**  **perfunctorily : casually or without much thought**  **Progging : Fishing**  **Tonging : Using long tools to pull up oysters from the seabed**  **alewives : fish**  **Hibernation : Resting**  **Staccato : Short, quick**  **inanities : trivial talk**  **Gaudy : Flashy**  **Pious : Devout**  **Alewife : Small fish used as bait**  **glowering : frowning or looking very angry**  **Unspellable : Difficult to spell**  **Breach : Position**﻿ | | | |  | |
| Ideas from this reading that would be interesting to discuss | | | | | |
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| Questions about the story (include language, culture, story) | | | | | |
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