# **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 | | 2024/7/25 |
| Reading Response to Book/Chapters | | About how long did this take to read? | | | 24h |
|  | | How difficult was it? (0-5)  (0 = easy …5 = impossible to understand) | | | 5 |
| How interesting was it? (0-5)  (0 = so boring … 5 = loved it) | | | 4 |
| New vocabulary/language | | | | | |
| **10+ Words I needed to look up** (with brief English definition) | | | | **10+ Words I guessed the meaning of** (with your guess) | |
| **Porthole** : A window in a ship or aircraft, or a means of access or understanding into a situation or subject.  **knotted** : tightly twisted or tied together  **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.  **Humane** : Marked by compassion, sympathy, or consideration for humans or animals.  **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.  **adamant** : resolutely or unyieldingly determined  **hawking** : offering for sale in an aggressive or conspicuous manner  **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.  **inanities** : trivial or nonsensical talk or writing | | | | **Psychiatrist** : mental health doctor  **remonstrance** : mild protest  **Snuggling** : moving into a comfortable position  **Hark** : listen attentively  **Muck-filled** : dirty and wet  **bedevil** : cause great trouble  **alewives** : small fish used for bait  **gnarled** : twisted and rough  **Tinkering** : small repairs  **Destitute** : Poor  **perfunctorily** : casually and without much thought | |
| Ideas from this reading that would be interesting to discuss | | | | | |
| 1. I seem to see the young girl's ignorant love for the elder (the old captain), is it true? The protagonist's secret thoughts are very delicate and have never been revealed. I think this admiration transcends age, and it can be regarded as the girl's affection for a certain characteristic of a certain person during a certain period of time. The author's description is not dirty, I think it is also related to her experience. 2. Another point I think is worth discussing is the ending of this novel. I feel a little regretful and it feels hastily concluded. The sudden epiphany and the hasty "resignation" make people feel unwilling. Or maybe this ending is consistent with the protagonist's upbringing and is limited by her own pattern? 3. I think that Louise's inner pain is not so easy to be fully understood by her mother or others. People do care more about the child with congenital deficiencies. This is reality. Therefore, the main line of the novel is still Louise's self-discovery and exploration of the future (I don't know if what I said is right). The novel also describes Louise's psychology in great detail. I think the author's ultimate intention is to accept this "partiality" and express that brothers and sisters should support and help each other. Is this right? 4. Even though the theme of this novel is so important, I still think it is a bit unfair to Louise. I think it is a lack of consideration for her families to let a child use the most precious time of her life to support her sister. I think it is understandable that Louise feels resentful and jealous. After Louise told her mother that she was dissatisfied, she was told that she could leave freely, which I think is also a very irresponsible answer. | | | | | |
| Questions about the story (include language, culture, story) | | | | | |
| 1. At the end of the article, Louise delivered a pair of twins. The older one was born successfully, but the younger one was born in an awkward position and suffered from hypothermia. The father of the child almost gave up, but Louise finally saved the child and baptized him. It was then that she remembered that she had not taken care of the older baby yet! The experience of the twins seems to be very similar to that of Louise and her sister? Is this something the author deliberately designed to express her deep meaning? 2. Sarah Louise was unable to attend medical school due to her gender and the large number of veterans' rights bills. I am somewhat curious about the status of women's rights in the United States during this period. I think this is quite regrettable for Louise. | | | | | |
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I confirm that I have read the English version