

Composition 1

English 4

Overview

In this first composition of the year, you will answer the question, “What did you think of the summer reading novel, *The Graveyard Book*?” The function of this first composition is for us to get to know each other. You read an interesting book; you’re an interesting person; so I’m curious about your thoughts. Be open and write a personal response, and then my feedback will be our first academic conversation as I connect what you read in the book to how I interpreted it.

I understand that “What did you think of a book” is a deceptively difficult question to answer, as it tends to lead to reductive responses – for instance, “I liked it,” or “It was o.k.” It’s important to practice *how* to answer the question of what you think of a piece of literature so you can bring your best thoughts and ideas to the conversation.

Therefore, not only will this composition reveal what you think about the summer reading, but it will also serve as a good practice for writing your way into your ideas.

To help you get started, consider answering any, all, or a combination of these questions below as you think of what to write.

- What kinds of things did you think or feel as you read the story?
- What did the book make you think about that you don’t normally consider?
- What questions did the book ask? Or make you ask? Do they have answers?
- Did you respond positively or negatively to the book? Where did this response come from?
- If it didn’t make you think, feel, or question anything – it did. It’s a good book! Make an effort!

Rubric follows on reverse page...

Rubric

- Write your authentic thoughts addressing the question above, NOT a summary. Assume I have complete knowledge of the book as I read your work.
- Aim for at least 300 words.
- Use paragraphs to arrange your ideas, but your composition needs no overarching structure. Feel free to wander.
- No need for a thesis. Feel free to contradict yourself or leave questions unanswered.
- Present your work printed in MLA format. Any papers not in MLA will be returned.
- Due beginning of class on Mon., Sept. 9 (A) / Tue. Sept. 10 (B)
No late compositions will be accepted.
- This will count for 10% of your Q1 Grade.

Please feel free to email me if you have any questions or concerns:
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