

Tips on Writing a Reflection

When writing a reflection, there are several things that you can talk about. You do not necessarily need to talk about one particular thing; you can reflect on more than one aspect of the literature. Or you may choose to focus on one area. Either way, you will write your reflection in a way that references the literature that you have read. For example, if you are focusing on the theme of the poem, you may want to give a brief synopsis of what the poem is about so that your thoughts on the theme make sense. If you decide to provide a summary or a synopsis of what you think the literature is about, be sure to go beyond that because a reflection is more than a summary. In addition, no matter what you may choose to talk about, you want to be sure to include your opinion of the literature, or how it affects you as a reader. If you like, you can base your opinion around whatever subject you are focusing on. The following is a list of suggested focus points for literary reflections:

- ❖ Is there imagery present that invokes/appeals to your senses?
- ❖ You may discuss the theme of the literature and how it reflects characteristics or ideas associated with the time period in which it was written, or how it does not reflect the time period.
- ❖ You may compare the technique, style, or theme of the literature to that of another author of the time period.
- ❖ You might focus on the author's style or syntax; maybe you'd like to comment on how it affects the literature, or maybe you'd like to comment on whether or not it is a reflection of literature from the time period.
- ❖ You might focus on the tone of the speaker
- ❖ You might elaborate on the literary devices used such as figurative language techniques – how do these techniques make the literature more interesting, more humorous, or more confusing? Do you like the devices that are used? Why or why not?

No matter what you decide to focus on, and no matter what method of summary or comparison you use in order to make your point, be sure to provide YOUR personal feedback! How does this literary selection affect YOU as a reader? Overall, what do you think about the selection? Or what do you think about whatever idea you pointed out? Remember YOU are reflecting – when you read the selection, what did you experience as a reader?