

Wide Reading- A Guide

NCEA Level 2 with Mrs. Plunkett

The report for wide reading can seem a little daunting and this is usually because there isn't really a set formula for how YOU respond to a text you have read, watched or listened to. This document aims to help clarify what you need to do for this task and offer some advice on where to get started.

Reading and Viewing

To respond to a text, you need to have read or viewed something that fits the task. In this case, you are responding to texts that, in some way, deal with fear. There are a few directions you could go with this:

- Texts in which a person talks about how they faced a situation that made them afraid. Think articles, biographical texts, documentaries...
- Fictional stories that fall into the gothic/horror/thriller genres. These texts often put characters into a situation that we would fear. You can respond to these in a couple of ways. The first could be to do with the SITUATION in the story. Why is that storyline 'scary' and what makes you want to read it from the comfort of your chair or bed? The second could be to examine the character and their reaction to the situation they are in. Did they react the way you expected- why/why not? How did they overcome the fear to succeed? How did they let the fear win?
- You could select a text and respond to the actual devices used to create a fearful experience for the reader/viewer. For example, if you select a horror film, what are the things that the director does to make the viewer feel afraid? What devices are effective in making you want to close your eyes or block your ears? Why do they work so well?

Planning

You should always take some time to plan what you want to say in a piece of writing before you begin writing it. Before sitting down to construct your report, jot down some responses to **some** of the following points:

- What are the main points of the plot? If I was telling someone about the text, how would I summarize it for them?
- What did I like about the text? Why did I like these things?
- What did I dislike about the text? Why did I dislike these things?
- What was the main message about fear that the author/director got across to me?
- How did the message about fear get delivered? Characters, events, settings?
- Would I have had the same response as the protagonist if I was placed in a similar situation? Why/why not?
- Is this a common situation that people in our world would fear? Why/Why not?
- Does the protagonist have a response to the situation they are in that I would expect most people would have? Why/why not?
- Does the writer/director use devices that commonly have an impact on the audiences ability to feel afraid? Why do these devices illicit such a strong emotional response from a reader/viewer?

The Report

Your report is an essay style response to the text. There are no set rules for how you should structure your response. My advice is to be logical with how you organise your information. What does the reader of this report need to know before they read your response?

Introduction

- In this, you need to ensure you have stated the text title, author and text type (novel, short story, film, poem etc.).
- You need to outline the main point of your response. What is the central point or points you will make about the text in the rest of this report?
- Give a brief outline of what happens in the text.

Body Paragraphs (there should be 2-3 body paragraphs)

- Each body paragraph should develop a point about the text and your response to it. For each, you could focus on an aspect of the text you connected with:
 - Character
 - Setting
 - Major Events
 - Themes/Ideas
 - Symbols
- You should explain how that aspect is presented in the text and what it says about fear (what's the message to the reader/viewer about fear?).
- The main portion of your paragraph should focus on your personal response to the text. Use the questions from earlier in this guide to help you think about your reaction and connection to the text. Also, ensure you develop a response to how the text connects to the world around it. You could consider avenues such as:
 - Does this story reinforce or contradict common beliefs in our society?
 - Have there been stories that mirror this one in our society?
 - Does the text reinforce a message about human nature? What examples from the social world support this?
 - Does this text explore an aspect of historical context?
 - How does this text engage with ideas or issues that are relevant to today's world?
- You should look to include at least one quotation per paragraph of your report. Overall, you must include a minimum of two quotations throughout your report but, as always, support your ideas with as much evidence as you can.

Conclusion:

- This should be a brief summary of your overall report. If you are struggling with this, consider the following questions:
 - What are the main points that you want a reader to take away from your report? Why are they important to think about?