**Eng 9: Personal Enrichment Project:**

**Reader Response Journals**

One of the most important aspects of this project is the student’s personal response to the text(s) they are reading. Rather than complete a unit test or an essay, students are expected to keep an ongoing journal of their thoughts, questions, and observations about the work they are reading.

As often as possible, students should make note of interesting ideas and quotations that they come across in their book, so that they can share them later on in group/class discussions. Students are encouraged to structure their entries in some logical fashion (e.g. after every chapter)

Journal Entries

***Entries should be structured into the following four categories. The goal is to document your personal experience of reading your book.***

**Questions –** A good book should make you ask questions constantly as you read, and also answer many of those questions as you go along. The questions can be small scale questions (“Where is this story set?” “Who is this new character?”), to medium scale questions (“Why is the main character so afraid all the time?” “What is the family history everyone keeps hinting at?), to large scale questions (“Is the portrayal of women in this novel positive or negative?” “What does it mean to be a survivor?”)

**Predictions –** Based on your knowledge of the characters in the novel, the story so far, and stories in general, where do you think the book will go? What will happen in the next few pages, the next chapter, or even in the end of the book?

**Inferences –** What are some educated guesses you can make about the story? What clues can you see about the characters, their lives, the setting, or events to come?

**Connections –** Try to make connections between your work and other books, movies, songs, TV shows (TEXT to TEXT), current events, news (TEXT to WORLD), your own life, friends, family (TEXT to SELF), etc.

***You can also write down any other aspects that stand out for you, such as:***

**Key quotes/passages –** write any memorable quotes or short passages and include your own reflection/analysis

**Literary devices/elements –** Identification (and **most** importantly) **discussion/ analysis** of literary devices, such as metaphor, allusion, irony, epiphany, etc.

**IMPORTANT: Do NOT fill up pages with just figurative devices, questions, and/or a summary of the book. Your journal is meant to be a collection of YOUR own thoughts, ideas, connections, questions, and interpretations about what you have read, NOT a list of words and definitions.**