

Figure 4.9: Reading Reflection

Directions: You will write a one or two-page formal reflection about how the book you selected affected you. *You must respond to the prompts*, but you can expand your focus by responding to one or more of the following guiding questions.

How did your book change your view of yourself or the world?

Writer's purpose:

Writer's role:

Audience:

Genre (novel, graphic novel, or the like):

Form (hard copy, e-reader, audiobook):

Consider these questions as you write your reflection.

- Did you identify with one of the characters in the novel? If so, how and why?
- Did the book reveal a universal truth you made a personal connection to or help deepen your understanding about life?
- Can the book be viewed in a larger context as a social criticism?
- Did this experience of selecting a book and reading independently change your view of yourself as a reader?
- How did your experience as a participant in your book discussions deepen your understanding of your book or how books can enhance conversations and connections between people?
- As a reader and a student, do you prefer independent reading or whole-class reading of novels or plays? Explain the benefits and drawbacks of each.

You should cite *textual evidence* from the book as well as from your discussions and your own life. The more details and examples you provide, the more effective your reflection will be. Your closing remarks should convey to your reader the broader significance of what you learned from your book as well as your book discussions, and express to the reader why it matters. You should provide context about your book, but avoid summarizing it.

Source: Adapted from Collins, J. J. (2007). The Collins writing program: Improving student performance through writing and thinking across the curriculum. West Newbury, MA: Collins Education.