

Letter-Essay #2 Instructions
Response to Literature

COMPLETE the planner to help you outline your second letter-essay. You need to select a work of fiction, rather than a non-fiction book for this essay.* This essay will follow the same format as the *Freak the Mighty* essay.

Your first task is to identify a theme.

A book's theme is often revealed through the actions, thoughts, and words of the main character. Think about what the main character learns or how he or she changes over the course of the book... This will often lead you to identify a theme. Sometimes a character, like Katniss in the *Hunger Games* series, establishes a strong moral position early in the novel and carries that position throughout the book. **In *The Hunger Games*, Katniss, the main character, suggests that to protect loved ones, any risk- even death- is worth taking.**

After identifying your theme, complete the rest of the planner. Use pencil; sometimes you'll want to exchange the order of your main points so that your most compelling point comes last.

Remember that all your main points and examples need to support or prove your thesis.

Often you will write the essay and then realize that your focus has shifted. You may need to reword, tighten, or expand your original thesis.

Use the Response to Literature Information sheet/scoring rubric and the Revision Guide/Dirty Dozen handouts to help you.

*If you have **only** read non-fiction books, you may identify the main idea or focus of the book and then have the body paragraphs of your essay further explain/reveal particulars about that main focus.