

September 12, 1994

Dear Fellow Reader,

You will be reading many books this year! The class has done a great job keeping the Reading Journals during the first three weeks. Remember, it is a record of your reading, your thinking, and your learning. You must write at least two journal entries each week. This is a minimum requirement. You may write as often as you like.

Always date your letters in the upper right-hand corner. Give the title and author of the book you are writing about. Make sure to capitalize titles and underline them. Keep the letters in chronological order, and use the back of the paper as well. If you fill up your journal, you will need to buy a new one, but do not throw the old one away.

When you have completed a book, bring your Reading Folder, your book, your "grabber" and your Reading Journal to me for a conference. You must have a conference with me before starting a new book. After this conference you will receive your sticker as a record of the genres which you have read. When you are ready, sign the Reading Conference sheet so that I will know that you need to meet with me.

I am asking you to think on paper about what you are reading. For instance, try to explain what you wonder about as you read; tell your opinion of the author's writing, plot, or characters; or explain what you think will happen next and why. Write about what matters to YOU as you read. For other ideas regarding Journal Entries, refer to the "idea" sheet in your Reading Folder. I will respond to your entries, so be sure to read my notes to you!

Reading is wonderful and so important! We will read a lot in fourth grade. It is important to rethink what we read through our literature log entries. Often we don't KNOW what we think until we write it. READ - WRITE - THINK! That is really what it is all about. If you work hard, it will be fun. (Really!) If you follow the procedures explained in class and in this letter, and if you write often with care and thought, you will do it very well.

HAPPY READING!

Sincerely,

*Mrs. Reed*