

# 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.

## Text Selection

You must select texts that deal with 'the real world' or falls into the genre of realism. Realism is characterized as 'fiction that is recognizable to the audience as real or plausible'. Broadly speaking, we can define it as "the faithful representation of reality".

Your texts should depict life, as it is or was. Remember, think of it as a window to a world you have not yet experienced. It can also be a mirror through which you see your own life reflected. The texts you choose should contain characters, settings and plot events that you identify as being able to exist in the real world (even if they are fictional).

## 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?
- Was there a main message that the author/director got across to me? What was it?
- How did the message get delivered? Characters, events, settings? Why were these effective or ineffective?
- Would I have had the same response as the protagonist if I was placed in a similar situation? 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?
- Did I feel a strong connection with the characters or settings in the text? Why?
- What does this text make me think about? Does it help me to form an opinion on something?
- What will I remember about this text? Why will it stick with me?

## 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 is significant about it (what's the message to the reader/viewer? What purpose do you think the author had in mind when they developed this aspect?).
- 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 need 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.
  - You must connect to the text on a personal and societal level **twice** throughout your response.

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?