



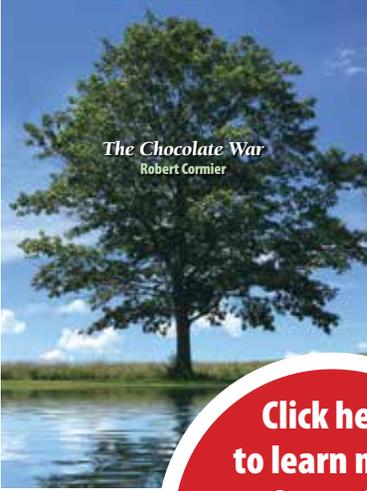
Prestwick House  
Response Journal™

# Sample

Prestwick House

**Response Journal**

Reflections: A Student Response Journal



*The Chocolate War*  
Robert Cormier

Click here  
to learn more  
about this  
Response Journal!



Click here  
to find more  
Classroom Resources  
for this title!



## Prestwick House

More from Prestwick House

### Literature

Literary Touchstone Classics  
Literature Teaching Units

### Grammar and Writing

College and Career Readiness: Writing  
Grammar for Writing

### Vocabulary

Vocabulary Power Plus  
Vocabulary from Latin and Greek Roots

### Reading

Reading Informational Texts  
Reading Literature



 **Prestwick House**  
**Response Journal**  
*Reflections: A Student Response Journal*



*The Chocolate War*  
**Robert Cormier**



**Prestwick House**

P.O. Box 658, Clayton, DE 19938

[www.prestwickhouse.com](http://www.prestwickhouse.com)

800-932-4593

Copyright © 2003 by Prestwick House, Inc., P.O. Box 658, Clayton, DE 19938.  
1-800-932-4593. [www.prestwickhouse.com](http://www.prestwickhouse.com) Permission to copy this unit for  
classroom use is extended to purchaser for his or her personal use. This material, in  
whole or part, may not be copied for resale.

ISBN 978-1-60389-521-7

Item No. 201720

---

## *Response Journal*

### **To The Student**

Although we may read a novel, play, or work of non-fiction for enjoyment, each time we read one, we are building and practicing important basic reading skills. In our ever-more complex society, in which reading has become more and more crucial for success, this, in itself, is an important reason to spend time reading for enjoyment.

Some readers, however, are able to go beyond basic reading techniques and are able to practice higher thinking skills by reflecting on what they have read and how what they read affects them. It is this act of reflection—that is, stopping to think about what you are reading—that this journal is attempting to encourage.

To aid you, we have included writing prompts for each section; however, if you find something that you wish to respond to in the book more compelling than our prompts, you should write about that. We hope you enjoy reading this book and that the act of responding to what you have read increases this enjoyment.

After you read the indicated sections, choose the questions to which you will respond. Keep in mind that there are no right or wrong answers to these prompts, and there is no one direction in which you must go.

---

*The Chocolate War*

## Chapter One

1. As Jerry battles to make the football team, he feels like the other people around him look “grotesque” and like “creatures from another world.” As Cormier puts it, Jerry has “never felt so lonely in his life, abandoned, defenseless.” In one or two paragraphs, write either about a specific time when you felt this way or about a situation that *always* makes you feel this way.
2. Jerry is “stunned by the knowledge that pain isn’t just one thing—it is cunning and various, sharp here and sickening there, burning here and clawing there.” Write a poem about at least three different types of pain you have felt. If possible, make all three types of *physical* pain (like Jerry’s), not emotional suffering.
3. Jerry is always betraying himself: “thinking one thing and saying another, planning one thing and doing another.” Write two descriptive paragraphs—one about something you thought about saying and regret not having had the courage to say, the other about the one thing you most regret not having done after planning to do it.
4. Describe something you have wanted badly and striven hard to get, as Jerry wants and strives for a position on the team. Why did you want the thing? Did you end up getting it?

---

*The Chocolate War*

## Chapter Four

9. Archie has always suspected that most adults are vulnerable and “running scared.” What are your feelings about adults? In general, do they seem wiser, more sure of themselves, and less vulnerable than teenagers? *Should* adults be these things? Leaving aside concrete factors like having a job instead of going to school, how do you think you will be different from the way you are now when you are an adult? Will you have the same insecurities, different ones, or none at all? Freewrite for five minutes on this general topic. It is okay if you don’t get to address all of these questions; likewise, feel free to make up and answer some of your own questions on this subject.
  
10. Archie is annoyed when Brother Leon uses the slang of the younger generation, saying “put down” as though he were a teenager himself. How do you feel when adults use “your” slang—annoyed, like Archie, or touched that they are trying to learn and speak to you in “your” language? Explain your answer.

## Chapter Five

11. Although he enjoys what he does, Archie feels as if he is constantly under pressure; he is expected to always be able to come up with brilliant Vigil assignments. Think of something you feel pressured to consistently do well because it’s expected of you. Write a poem about how that pressure feels.

## Chapter Twenty-Two

36. Brother Leon reminds Brian of “a mad scientist plotting revenge in an underground laboratory.” One of the creepiest things about Leon is the way he tries to control his emotions but never fully succeeds: they’re always visible just under the surface, ready to burst through. Imagine that this meeting with Brian has finally sent Leon over the edge and that he decides to write Jerry an anonymous threatening letter. As Leon, write the letter. Try to sound like “a mad scientist plotting revenge.”

## Chapter Twenty-Three

37. The Goober feels that the Vigils’ machinations are “evil”; Jerry says that they’re only “fun and games.” Who do you agree with? State your answer and explain how you came to it, using examples from the book for support.
38. The Goober is afraid Jerry will think he’s crazy or overreacting if he tells Jerry what he really thinks. Write about a time when you were afraid to tell a friend what you thought or how you felt because you feared your friend’s reaction. What were you afraid your friend would think of you? Did you ever tell your friend—or anyone?

## Chapter Thirty-Two

49. Jerry's father knows nothing of the chocolate sale, but he *does* know that his son is bruised and receiving an inordinate number of prank calls. As Mr. Renault, write a journal entry that takes place just after you've said goodnight to your son. In the entry, form theories as to what might be going on in your son's life and decide whether it would be a good or a bad idea to try to confront Jerry about his troubles. Before writing, remember that Mr. Renault has recently lost his wife (and Jerry his mother); this detail may (but doesn't have to) inform how he thinks.

## Chapter Thirty-Three

50. Archie tells Janza, "If you want to get under a guy's skin, accuse him of being something he isn't. Otherwise, you're only telling him something he knows."

Do you agree with Archie? I tend to think the opposite: that people are hurt most by taunts that ring true. In my view, Jerry may have been more angered or hurt, for example, if Janza made some incendiary comment about Jerry's mother being dead.

Write a paragraph or two in which you agree or disagree with Archie. Back your position up with examples from your own life—times when you have been teased or people you know have, and what hurt most.