



Prestwick House
Response Journal™

Sample

Prestwick House

Response Journal

Reflections: A Student Response Journal



Hoops
Walter Dean Myers



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



Hoops
Walter Dean Myers



Prestwick House

P.O. Box 658, Clayton, DE 19938

www.prestwickhouse.com

1-800-932-4593

Copyright © 2005 by Prestwick House, Inc., P.O. Box 658, Clayton, DE 19938.
1-800-932-4593. 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 978-1-60389-568-2

Item No. 201699

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.

Chapter 1

1. The narrator, Lonnie, begins the story by recalling an important conversation he had with his father before his father moved away.

Think back on your life. Try to recall a conversation you have had with a family member that you will never forget. In dialogue form, rewrite the conversation as you remember it.

2. The narrator's father suggests that, when your days aren't kept full all the time with school and other activities, you "start dreaming about this and that" and "lay your days out in front of yourself like an imaginary road." That's when, he adds, your days start "piling up" on you.

What do you envision when you imagine all of the days left in your life, stretched out before you like "an imaginary road"? Does the thought of this road excite you, tire you, or worry you? Do you think you'll ever feel like your days are "piling up" on you? Explain your answer in a detailed paragraph.

3. The narrator likes his part-time job at a hotel because he can "crash there" if things are difficult at home. There are small perks to every job: free movie tickets if you work at a theatre, free ice-cream if you work at an ice-cream parlor, and so on. As a highschooler, would you like a job like the narrator's for the side benefits it provides, or is there another job frequently held by the average teenager (that is, *not* being in a famous band or modeling) whose perks you find more appealing? Explain.

Hoops

7. Lonnie's girlfriend, Mary-Ann, is having problems with her mother because her mother believes she is too young to be working in a bar. Mary-Ann believes that, since her job does not require her to do anything illegal and since she is learning responsibility through her work there, the job is perfectly acceptable.

Should 16-year-olds be permitted to work around alcohol? First, create a pro/con list. Under the *pro* side, list all the benefits that Mary-Ann receives from working in the bar that grown-ups should consider important. Then, under the *con* heading, list any problems that could arise from underage youth working around alcohol.

When your list is finished, write a short letter to the editor of your school newspaper in which you address this question. Remember that your letter should clearly express one opinion (either for or against) and provide support and evidence for your ideas.

8. The author, Walter Dean Myers, uses a lot of slang to recreate the adolescent world to which Lonnie belongs. With a partner, create a slang dictionary, in which you try to define as many as possible of the slang terms that Lonnie uses. Be sure to include the following phrases: *on my back*, *booze*, *sweet*, *hightail*, *copping*, *wino*, *cats*, *cool*, *dig*, *flick*, *jive turkey*, and *chump*. Define these terms using the context from the story and your knowledge of teen culture and language. Then, add at least five words to your dictionary from your own slang that you and your friends use. Be sure to keep all entries school-appropriate and not offensive.

Response Journal

14. Lonnie is one of the neighborhood's top basketball players, but the day Sweet Man visits, Lonnie attends practice unprepared to play, without his sneakers. What must be going through Lonnie's mind? Explain from Lonnie's perspective, in his diary, the reasons why he is so unwilling to trust Cal. Then explain why he chose to attend the practice in the first place and what he expected to see there. Don't forget to include Lonnie's surprise at actually seeing Sweet Man at the practice, as Cal had promised.
15. An "after-hours joint" is a bar that stays open late at night after other bars close. It is also understood that many illicit activities may occur at these places, including gambling and violence. Lonnie's girlfriend, Mary-Ann, works there, stocking the alcohol and helping with the inventory and ordering. She calls Lonnie upset because she found an envelope in her boss's office with her brother's name on it. She is worried that her brother is involved in illegal activities.

Write a conversation between Mary-Ann and her brother about the concerns he has. Be sure to include what she is worried her brother is doing and what she plans to do about it, if anything, and his responses

You might begin your dialogue:

Mary-Ann: I am very worried about you because...

16. It becomes clear in this chapter that Lonnie is very reluctant to trust Cal and is more hostile to him than many of his friends are. Write a paragraph in which you attempt to explain Lonnie's hostility toward Cal. Why do you think Lonnie is so reluctant to trust Cal? Is Lonnie right in believing that many people cannot be trusted? Why, or why not?

H o o p s

21. Lonnie says that he never sees Paul anymore because he is always with one of his “la-di-da” friends. Write a short explanation to a classmate, explaining what Lonnie means by “la-di-da.”
22. Paul introduces Lonnie to his new friend, Lenny, who is from the richer part of town. Paul and Lenny are organizing a book drive in support of Native Indians, who they feel “aren’t getting justice.” Lonnie is upset and asks them, “Why don’t you do for your own?” Lonnie seems to feel that Paul should be spending time with and helping people from his own community and ethnic group, since there are poor people in their own neighborhood, who could probably benefit from a book drive.
Who is correct? Write a paragraph explaining your answer.
23. The team plays really badly during the second half of their first tournament, but during the second half, they play harder than they have ever played before and make a great comeback, even though they still lose. After all the team members celebrate their hard work at the center, Cal takes Lonnie back to his apartment to celebrate. At his apartment, Lonnie learns many things about Cal.

Make a list of all of the new information that Lonnie gains about Cal’s background. Compare this list to the fictional resume you created for Cal after reading Chapter 1. Were you right about any of your predictions concerning Cal’s past?

24. Cal tells Lonnie: “You know what you love in this life? You love what makes you stand the tallest.” By this he means that we love the things that make us proud.

Think about your own life. What makes you most proud? Write a short poem about the thing in the world of which you are the proudest.

25. After Cal has finished telling Lonnie about getting thrown out of the NBA, he begins to cry. Lonnie feels very uncomfortable and isn’t sure what to do. Pretend you are Lonnie. Write a short diary entry explaining his thoughts and feelings about seeing Cal cry.