Retell, Relate, Reflect Framework

Retell

Some things to write about:

Retell what you have read.

Summarize what you have read.

Describe the major ideas.

Describe the most significant and relevant parts. Describe parts that you find confusing, attempt to work out their meaning through your writing, and formulate questions about them for discussion.

Some possible prompts:

This was about ...

I noticed that ...

The most significant ideas/event was ...

An event that I especially liked was ...

I particularly liked/valued/enjoyed ...

An idea that captured my interest was ...

Words that I found particularly effective were ...

An idea that inspired me was ...

The author's style is ...

I didn't understand this part because ...

Relate

Some things to write about:

Make connections between the text and your own life (e.g., personal experiences, feelings), other texts (e.g., books, music, films, television programs, websites), or the world at large (e.g., current events).

Relate your thoughts about the text to your own life, giving examples.

Some possible prompts:

Something I identify with is ...

What I found especially meaningful or significant was

This text relates to my life in the following ways: ... This book, compared with others by the same author, is ...

The text is similar to my experience when ... What is described in this text is very much like what is happening today in ...

Reflect

Some things to write about:

Why this text is important to you

The author's conclusions. Your judgement about the text/author's conclusions. Your opinions about the ideas/events in the text

Your opinions about the style of this text compared with the style of other texts on the same topic

Your judgement about the credibility of the text

Whether you feel the text is current and/or accurate

Whether reading the text has changed the way you feel or think about something, and if so, how

Any relevant questions you have

Anything about the text that still confuses or frustrates you

How reading this text has or has not helped you meet the learning goals you set for yourself

Any new goals you are setting for yourself

Some possible prompts:

The passages that I find most meaningful are \dots

because ...

I think that ...

I wonder why or what if ...

I realize now that ... How ...?

This author's style differed from ... on the same topic in the following ways ...

This information is very different from what I read in ... What is the author trying to make me think/do? I wonder why I feel so ...

Reading this text changed the way I think and behave because ...

A question raised in my mind is ...

My predictions about this text were ...

Something that pushed my thinking was ...

This text was a challenge for me because ...

I learned that ...

I changed the way I think/feel about ... because ... I think that I will investigate other points of view because ...

An idea that inspired me was ... because ...

The author wrote the story with an underlying message that is ... because ...

I would recommend this book to a friend or to a reader who is especially interested in ...

Reference

Ministry of Education. A Guide to Effective Literacy Instruction. Vol.2. Toronto: Queen's Printer, 2006.