Criteria for Evaluating Literary letters

The criteria for grading will include the following:

1. **Appropriate length**- Your letter should be 300-350 words.

2. **Quality of content of the letter**- Your letter should refer to specific events, and characters. You should clearly tell what you think about the book and you should explain why you feel as you do. Don’t be vague. “My book is great. I really like the story, it is interesting.”

3. **Diversity of Thinking in your letter**- Your letter should not focus on one mode of thinking throughout. You should cover a variety of topics. Are you making judgments, predicting, evaluating the book and/or the author, identifying with the characters or story, thinking about the deeper meaning of the book- the theme? Are you limiting the amount of time you spend summarizing and retelling what has happened?
   
   • Keep up with your reading so you have something new to write about and such that you can have depth to your paper.
   • You will lose points if you do not keep up in the book. In other words, you will not get high scores if you are still talking about what happened in chapter one or two when you are on your second letter.

4. **Neat and legible Writing**- Write slowly and neatly so that your paper can be easily read. Type your paper if your writing is not legible.

**DO NOT JUST RETELL OR SUMMARIZE THE EVENTS OF YOUR BOOK.** The purpose of the letter writing is to give you a chance to reflect on your reading. You need to think about what is happening and how you feel about the story. What do you think all of this means?

**Some examples of how your paragraphs could start include:**

• I think that… because…
• I really like/dislike this part because…
• This story/ character/scene reminds me of…
• I was really bothered when…
• I felt happy, sad, scared, upset, relieved, frustrated when…
• I have learned that…
• This book makes me wonder about, think about…
• I think the author wants us to think about…
• A lesson I learned form the book is…
• I am confused about…

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### Rubric for Grading Literary letters

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Literary Letter Grading Scale</th>
<th>Total ______/ 25 points = ____________</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>_____</td>
<td>Your paper is <strong>350-400 words</strong> in length. (4 pts)</td>
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<td>_____</td>
<td>The paper is either typed or handwritten in a neat and legible manner. (2 pts)</td>
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<tr>
<td>_____</td>
<td>You have included the title of your book and the number of pages you have read. (1 Pts)</td>
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<td>_____</td>
<td>You have used correct grammar and punctuation and spelling. (2 pts)</td>
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<td>_____</td>
<td>You have written a brief summary (1 paragraph) of what has happened. (3 pts)</td>
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<tr>
<td>_____</td>
<td>You have covered at least five different categories (making judgments, predicting, discussing themes, relating book to your life, evaluating characters/and or authors, comparing book to others etc.) (5pts.)</td>
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<td>_____</td>
<td>You are keeping up with the assigned pages and the content of your letter demonstrates this (4pts)</td>
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<tr>
<td>_____</td>
<td>You have explained your thoughts in depth, You go beyond your initial reactions to give well-thought out reasons to explain your thinking. (4pts.)</td>
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