

- Beginning on the first line of Page 1, record the following information in order:

**Title of book:**

**Name of author:**

**Publisher:**

**Number of pages:**

- In the upper right hand corner of your paper, **make sure that you write your name.**
- Under your name, **make sure you get your parent or guardian to sign the completed work.**

## 2018 SUMMER READING PROCEDURE

# *The Color of Water* James McBride

## COMPLETE ALL OF THESE ITEMS TO HAVE A SUCCESSFUL BOOK REPORT!

- Answer your questions in sequential order. Start with Question 1 and go all the way through until you have answered all twenty-five LITERARY RESPONSE questions. You are required to turn in answers to all questions on the **FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL!**
- Type each question and then your response to that question. Number your questions. Please use **COMPLETE SENTENCES** for each answer. Don't use bullet points or just make a list. Put thought into your answers. Be sure to proofread and correct spelling and grammar errors.

# Literary Response Questions

## CONTENT QUESTIONS 1- 12

1. **Who are the main characters?**

- ✓ These are the characters who appear frequently from the book's beginning to its ending.

2. **Where does the action take place?**

- ✓ This could be in a place as specific as someone's home or as broad as several places throughout the world. Notice direct references and clues about the setting. Also, be aware of specific historical time periods when certain issues would be more relevant than at other lesser known times.

3. **When does this story take place – long ago, in the future, or in the present? How do you know?**

- ✓ Pay attention to the way the characters act, speak, and dress. Such details will provide information about the time period of the book's plot.

4. **Describe the setting.**

- ✓ "Describe" means just what you think it means! Give details about the sensory impressions that the setting provides – what the reader visualizes, hears, smells, tastes, or feels. You may use your words or you may copy directly the text or you may use a blend of both strategies. For whatever you decide to do, do it thoroughly.

5. **Explain how the story is told.**

The author tells the story of his own childhood, but he also tells the story of his mother's life. Explain how this works in the book.

6. **What is the problem, or conflict in the story?**

- ✓ Answer this question for both the son and the mother's stories.

7. **What special words has the author used so far to help you see, hear, or feel things in the story? Write three specific examples from the book.**

- ✓ For this question, be very, very specific. You should quote text directly from the book and identify the sense to which the words appeal.

8. **Write about James McBride's mother. Describe the way she looks, her past, the choices she has made in her life, and her personality.**

- ✓ Be very specific here. Ruth McBride could be considered the protagonist in the story. How would the story change without the presence of this one character? Prove what you have to write.

**9. Tell the main events that happen in the mother's life.**

- ✓ This is not a "one sentence" answer. In a paragraph, write about at least five, six, or more important incidents or events that happen in her life.

**10. Describe the main events that happen in the author's life.**

- ✓ This is an important question. Again, give In a paragraph, write about at least five, six, or more important incidents or events that happen in his life. Try to pinpoint what you think is the climax—the high point or turning point of the book's action. After this point in the plot, things begin to change for the main character. He cannot go back. Something happens to him, to someone he cares about, to someone he hates, or to something he likes or hates. He must accept what happens and move toward a resolution in the falling action after this point in the plot. The climax usually occurs about three-fourths of the way through the book.

**11. Write about the book's end.**

- ✓ This response will not be as long as the response in Question 10. Still, you must be thorough and cover all the important details that lead to the book's conclusion.

**12. What is the author's message? Why do you think this is the message?**

- ✓ This is the **theme** of the book, the universal truth that could apply to this book and hundreds of other stories as well. Use evidence from the book to support your answer.

## EVALUATION QUESTIONS 13-25 + Paragraph

**13. Which character in this story reminds you of anyone else you have read about? How are they alike?**

- ✓ Even though the names of the characters change from story to story, basic human characteristics remain the same.

**14. How does the author change as he grows up? What are some lessons the the learns.**

- ✓ Give specific examples Write in complete sentences.

**15. How does James McBride's mother change over time? Explain and give examples.**

- ✓ Give this question some thought. Think about everything the character has faced in terms of the book's conflict. Use examples from the book to prove your position.

**16. Pick one character that you like and explain what you like about him or her. Then pick a character that you dislike and explain why.**

- ✓ This is not a question to be taken lightly. Answer it with specific, knowledgeable information from the book. The "WHY" here is very important to your demonstrating an understanding of what you have read.

**17. Suppose you had a chance to meet one of the characters. What would you say to him or her?**

- ✓ Just think about everything you have read and learned in this book and imagine a conversation you could have.

**18. Tell about a couple of the images that the author has left in your mind.**

- ✓ The author creates images by using descriptive details. What are some of the unforgettable descriptions that you can sense by reading the printed words? How do the images created by the words on the page appear in your head? For example, if you were reading The Diary of Anne Frank, you would certainly remember how she and her family lived huddled together in an attic.

**19. Describe the author's stepfather. How does he parent his children? Do you think he is a good father? Why or why not?**

This is your opinion, but give examples to explain your opinion

**20. Describe Ruth McBride's parents. Why do you think they acted the way they did?**

- ✓ Describe them and their actions and then try to imagine how they thought and felt. Try to figure out the reasons for the decisions they made.

**21. Describe the author's family when he was young. How does his mother run her household? What do you think of the decisions she made?**

- ✓ Again, first give plenty of specific examples from the book; then give your reaction.

**22. How would the story be different if it was set in a different time ?**

- ✓ This is a "thought" question that requires you to think. Evaluate what you know about the time period in this book and then formulate a knowledgeable answer of how the story would be different had it been set in a different time.

**23. Why do you think James McBride decided to write this memoir? What does the author want us to know or understand? Look at the subtitle of the book and also the dedication**

- ✓ Think about this.

**24. Choose a paragraph or line from the book that you particularly like. Type out the quote and explain what it means and why you like it.**

- ✓ Quote from the book for this response. Be clear as to why it is your favorite.

**25. If you wanted to suggest this story to a friend, what would you say it was mostly about?**

- ✓ Just a couple of sentences will cover your response for this item.

**DO NOT FORGET TO WRITE YOUR  
PERSONAL RESPONSE  
PARAGRAPH!--30-- points**

**At the end of your written responses, write eight to twelve sentences explaining your reaction to this book.**

**—EXAMPLE—**

This is just an example. Please write your own response in your own words.

The novel *Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe is an intriguing story about one man's struggle against the changes occurring in his country. As the story unfolds, Okonkwo slowly loses control over his destiny. While the South African names are hard to pronounce, I could still follow the plot and keep up with what is going on among the different characters. I especially like Ikemefuna because he is taken from his home to live in a strange place. Achebe effectively presents him in a sympathetic way, and the reader feels this young boy's pain about his unfortunate situation. The traditions that this tribe practiced are interesting, and reading about them has given me a chance to learn more about colonialism in South Africa. Also interesting are the folktales and proverbs, which entertain the reader as they did the tribesmen throughout the story. I especially like the one about the tortoise and the birds. Finally, the end of the story makes me sad, but Okonkwo really does not fit into his tribe's new ways. *Things Fall Apart* is a classic novel, and I enjoyed reading it.

# SUMMER READING BOOK REPORT EVALUATION

## **FORM**

**20** In the upper right-hand corner of the paper, writes his/her name.  
**Under the name, a parent or guardian has signed the completed work.**

**20** Beginning on the first line of Page 1, records the following information in order:

Title of book:  
Name of author:  
Publisher:  
Number of pages:

**20** Types each question in its sequential order and then types its answer immediately beneath it.

**20** Types questions and responses in **12 point Arial font.**

**20** Errors in grammar, usage, and mechanics are minimal, too many, or highly excessive.

## **CONTENT RESPONSES 1-12**

**10** 1. Who are the main characters?

**6** 2. Where does the story take place?

**6** 3. When does this story take place?

**10** 4. Describe the setting.

**6** 5. What is the one event or incident that gets the plot moving?

**6** 6. What is the problem in the story? How do you think it will be solved?

**10** 7. What special words has the author used so far to help you see, hear, or feel things in the story? Write three specific examples from the book.

**6** 8. Choose one character. Why was this character important in the story?

**15** 9. Tell the main events that happen up to the book's climax.

**10** 10. What is the climax of the story?

**15** 11. Tell the main events that happen from the climax to the book's end.

**6** 12. What is the author's message? Why do you think this is the message?

## **EVALUATION RESPONSES 13-25 + Paragraph**

<b>20</b>	<b>13. – 17. Characterization</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>18. – 19. Images and Motifs</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>20. – 22. Setting</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>23. Author's knowledge</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>24. Favorite word, line, or paragraph</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>25. Mostly about ....</b>
<b>30</b>	<b>PERSONAL RESPONSE PARAGRAPH – 8 TO 12 SENTENCES</b>