A Reading Log:

is in complete, well-written sentences that answer all aspects of the question
~  shows understanding of both stated and unstated meanings of the text
~  ideas are supported with several specific examples from the text
~  response may be analyzed by:
             making connections to other events or literature
             drawing conclusions generalizing or summarizing
             noting the author's style or point of view
~  response is purposeful and shows thought and effort

Students may choose any of the suggestions noted on the reading log. They need to form a thesis or idea statement, support that statement with **specific** evidence from the text, analyze their evidence, and formulate a conclusion that reinforces their thesis or idea statement.

**Claim** – Claims are made in a thesis and in topic sentences

**Lead To** -Lead your reader from the claim to the evidence

**Evidence** – Select the best evidence available from the text

**Analysis** - Analyze why your evidence strongly supports your claim

**Revisit** - Reiterate the validity of your claim

**Examples:**

**Characterization**

From the beginning of *The Count of Monte Cristo*, the hero, Edmond Dantes, comes across as a model of honesty, competence, and innocence. Despite his youth, he is an effective leader to his sailors. He is devoted to his aging father and to his young fiancée. Perhaps most admirable, Dantes is capable of overlooking his personal dislike for Danglars, Caderousse, and Fernand; and he treats all of them fairly and civilly. When Morrel asks Dantes to evaluate Danglar’s work on the ship, Dantes could easily ruin his enemy’s career with a mean word. Yet he chooses to put aside his personal feelings and honestly evaluates rather than rebukes Caderousse for mistreating his father. Dantes politely welcomes him into his home and offers to lend him money. Dantes even manages to curb his ill will toward Fernand, his rival for Mercedes’s affections. Dantes is loyal to those he loves and sees the best in those who are flawed. These traits elevate our hero above any of the other characters introduced so far.

**Emotional Response**

I don’t feel Jason is sympathetic towards Macy at all. You know the conflict is about to explode on the page when in Chapter 3, Macy emails him about how working at the library is “okay”, but Amanda and Bethany aren’t accepting her. At the end of the email she closes it by saying: I love you, Macy. He emails her back saying, “It’s been a concern of mine for a while that we’ve been getting too serious; and since I’ve been gone, I’ve been thinking hard about our respective needs and whether our relationship is capable of filling them.” He then goes on saying that he feels she is getting too dependent on him and a break would be best for both of them. Jason does know that the reason for her dependence is because she just lost her dad in a heartbreaking accident. I find it frightening that another human would seemingly not be able to understand what drives Macy’s feelings.

**Clues from the Author**

Many incidents in MacLachlen’s *Baby* lead the reader to understand Mr. Larkin will have very little input into the decision making with this family. When the baby is dropped off at Larkin’s house, the mother immediately talks the father into letting her stay with them for a few weeks. I think the author is trying to tell me that the mother has more of a say in the relationship. “Lily, we need to talk inside without the baby,” the father said when he found out she was considering keeping the baby. Clearly Mr. Larkin knew he wasn’t going to get what he wanted by simply saying it. The second piece of evidence that supports this idea is when the text says, “Without Sophie, John, Mama corrected him.” Mrs. Larkin is a confident woman and is used to correcting her husband even on the little things. Lastly, when the father comes out of the house a little defeated, the reader understands this was not the first time the mother had told him what to do. And he wasn’t very happy about the verdict. All in all, Mr. Larkin tries being strong in stating his opinions, but Mrs. Larkin is the family member who clearly makes the decisions for the family.

**Text to Text**

The book *Airborn* by Kenneth Oppel and *The Hunger Games* by Susan Collins are strikingly similar in their use of friendship as driving force in the plot. *Airborn* is about a boy named Matt who works on a blimp called the Aurora. His father worked there; and after he died, the Aurora took on Matt. Now the Aurora is like home to Matt. Since the book is set in the past, blimps often do trans-continental flights. On one of the Aurora’s flights to Sydney, Australia, they are attacked by a band of Blimp Pirates. After stealing all the valuables (the Aurora has many rich passengers), the pirates chase the Aurora into a cyclone. The outer layer of the blimp is ripped, and the Aurora crashes onto an uncharted island. Matt and Kate are passengers who befriend each other and begin exploring the island’s jungle. One day while exploring, the two are overtaken by a terrible storm. The two have to take refuge in a nearby cave. They have to work together to get out of the jungle. This gets even harder when they find out that the island is inhabited by the very pirates who shipwrecked them. In both books two kids have to brave the elements by working together and watching out for people who want them dead. Also, the two children are unlikely friends. In *The Hunger Games* Katniss and Peeta are supposed to be enemies, but a change in the Hunger Games’ rules allows them to befriend each other. Peeta calms Katniss when she becomes almost hysterical during the advertising of the games. As he has lived a life at a much richer level than Katniss, he brings that knowledge and experience to the games in being able to introduce Katniss to people she has never had any involvement with. No matter how many times Katniss attempts to make it on her own, Peeta is the one person she knows she is able to count on to help her minimize the troubles she finds herself in. Although these books are both science fiction, the element of friendship plays a key role.

**What is the Point?**

The environment is in an awful condition in The House of the Scorpion. I think the author is telling me this because if we continue to mess up the environment, we will all be living in a situation similar to the one in the book. One example of this is that, in the book, the Gulf of California was dried up. The water in the Colorado River was so polluted (“A wide ribbon of water disappeared into a giant drain. It glistened with oil…”) that it has to be filtered to drink. This river flows into the Gulf of California, and that became so polluted, the whales died. Another example is that when Matt is exploring, he finds “…a depression that must have been used for waste. The evil smell made Matt’s eyes water, and he could barely focus on the yellow sludge on the bottom…” “Matt felt himself getting dizzy…”sucked desperately on the whaler…” This shows an extreme of what could happen with all of the waste that humans have. The idea of eejits sleeping in the fields to keep the population under control is a particularly scary thought for mankind. Both of these examples explain that the author is trying to tell readers that if we continue our bad environmental habits, we could end up suffering the same dreadful and depressing existence that exists for Matt.