

Response Journal for *Nothing but the Truth* by Avi

Why use the Response Journal: A Response Journal would be a good idea for this novel because of all of the controversial themes that arise therein. The entries would give each student a chance to think through some of the issues on his/her own. The journal responses could also be used to start class discussions or debates. The responses of the students should help them learn from their text and help them make the text-to-text, text-to-world, and text-to-self connections.

When to use the Response Journal: The students should probably write a journal response at least two or three times a week while reading the novel. The students should keep their responses all together—they could serve as ideas for paper topics later on.

How to administer the Response Journal:

- Write the writing prompt on the board, on an overhead or even on a handout for the students to have their choice of when to write each journal entry.
- Have students copy down the topic/question for the journal entry at the top of the page.
- Students should then write their feelings and thoughts about the topic on their papers.

Sample Journal Topics:

After Chapter 4:

- Why does Philip do the things that he does?
- What do you think of Miss Narwin so far?
- How is Philip's school similar to and different from yours?

After Chapter 9:

- Do you agree with what Philip has done?
- Why do Mr. and Mrs. Malloy act the way they do?
- How would you react in Philip's situation?

After Chapter 12:

- How important is Allison Doresett in the plot?
- What do you think Tom Griffen is going to do in the story?
- What should the Assistant Principal (or any other character) do?



Assessment:

The students can think through the issues on their own, having written down their feelings about them. This way, you can start a class discussion with the students using their response journals.