

Independent Reading

(For Families)

Directions: Remember to record responses to **research reading in the front** of your independent reading journal and responses to **choice reading in the back**. Try to choose a different prompt each time.

Record any new vocabulary in your vocabulary log. Remember, academic vocabulary is recorded in the front, and domain-specific vocabulary (words about the topic) is recorded in the back. Mark vocabulary found during independent reading with a symbol—for example, an asterisk (*).

Record:

- Date
- Title and author of your reading book
- Pages you have read
- Prompt
- Response

Example:

Date: 04/08/2016

Book Title and Author: *Divided Loyalties* by Gare Thompson

Pages Read: 14–18

Prompt: Describe in depth a character in the text using details from the text.

Response: Robert is very loyal to the king. Even after losing a customer because he is loyal to the king, he explains that he will continue to be loyal. He says to William, “William, we are loyal to the king, and that’s final!”

Independent Reading Prompts

Consider using the following independent reading prompts*:

- What is the theme or main idea of the text? What are some of the key details, and how do they support the main idea?
- What do the illustrations tell you? How do they help you understand the words?
- What questions do you now have after reading? What would you like to learn more about? Why?
- What are the most important facts you learned from reading?
- What is the most interesting fact you learned today? Why?
- How does what you read today connect to something you have learned in other lessons?
- Describe in depth a character in the text using details from the text.
- Describe in depth a setting in the text using details from the text.
- Describe in depth an event in the text using details from the text.
- Choose one new word from your reading today and analyze it on a vocabulary square:

Definition in your own words	Synonyms (words that mean the same)									
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td colspan="3" style="padding: 5px;">Break up the word using this chart:</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="width: 33%; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">Prefix</td> <td style="width: 33%; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">Root</td> <td style="width: 33%; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">Suffix</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="height: 20px;"></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Break up the word using this chart:			Prefix	Root	Suffix				Words with the same affix or root
Break up the word using this chart:										
Prefix	Root	Suffix								
Translation in home language (where appropriate):										

*Some of the prompts will not be appropriate for the text students are reading. Invite students to choose a prompt that works for the text they have just read.