

### **Format for Reading Log**

A reading log is not a summary. It is a response to literature based on the reader's questions, reflections, inferences, predictions, and connections to and about the work being read. The response, while it should connect to the reader's own life and experiences, must also be an analysis of the work being read based on the elements of literature: plot, setting, theme, and tone/mood. The log must be typed, formatted in MLA style: Your name, my name, course name with period, date of log. Follow with the name of the book, author and total pages read so far. Use a separate sheet for each log entry. To complete the log, choose a passage that interests you an average of every fifty (50) pages. Begin the passage with the number of the entry for this book. At the end of each quoted passage put the page number the passage can be found on. Please skip a line between the actual passage being quoted and the commentary/analysis. You should have a minimum of seven sentences (approximately 100-125 words) of analysis for each passage quoted.

### **Example of reading Log:**

Jane Student

Mr. Smythe

College Writing-1

September 5, 2014

Cool Hand Luke

Donn Pearce

55 pages read

1. *So we build our Time. Each of our days is connected to the other by all sorts of personal artifacts, attached together by glue and by dream, nailed down tight by the hammering of our unanimous heels which respond to the First Bell by drumming on the floor all at once. ...the line enters the dawn through the door to open still another day.* (9)

I was struck by the sense of tedium in this passage, that time is built and even the word is capitalized. It is a story of prison, so I would imagine days would be monotonous. But the ritual of monotony seems important to the men. They need the sameness as much as they seem to resent it. Rules are also capitalized words, almost as if they are holy words, even if they are sins: "Eyeballing" and "Loudtalking." Other references seem to indicate that prison life becomes a religion. All of the prisoners are renamed much as Simon becomes Peter or Saul becomes Paul in the Bible. About Dragline, one of the main convicts, the narrator says "... once upon a time, his name was Clarence Slidell." I think it's a clear picture that the men lose who they were in the "Free World," but strange that they create such a cult of the artificial world of the chain gang. Maybe it's not artificial if all you can do is build time.