*All the Pretty Horses -*Journal Assignment

As you read *All the Pretty Horses*, by Cormac McCarthy, you will be completing a journal assignment. This assignment is designed to encourage active reading habits by requiring you to pause and reflect as you read. Because this is a journal assignment, less emphasis is placed on whether your responses are “right” or “wrong,” and more emphasis is placed on how much you authentically engage with the text. **All responses must be typed and include specific, quoted, and cited evidence from the text**. Also, be sure to follow all writing conventions, such as grammar, mechanics, MLA, etc., as this will be part of the evaluation of each entry (1/4 point deduction for major errors).Please, do not use information from “outside sources,” as it defeats the overall purpose of the assignment. Besides, I read these sources and know what information they contain! **You will complete 10 detailed responses after every 25-50 pages of reading so as to cover the text in its entirety. This assignment is due\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

1. Comment on the author’s style, referring to particular words, phrases, syntax, passages, etc. What do you notice about McCarthy’s writing that sets him apart from authors you have read in the past? Why might McCarthy use this style of writing?
2. Pick a passage that contains rich symbolism and provide an analysis as related its significance in developing character or theme. (C.E.I.E.I)
3. Comment on a character. What traits does he/she have that are getting in the way or contributing to his/her success? Are there moments when you detect a shift within a character? Does this character remind you of someone you know? Address the intellectual/philosophical/spiritual aspects of the characters, and keep comments about physical appearance to a minimum.
4. React to a specific part of the story itself. How do you respond to the action? Explain how you relate to some of the struggles, to the story, or how people are reacting?
5. Write one interpretive (between the lines) Socratic question and answer. Remember that a response to an interpretive question should require making sophisticated inferences. (C.E.I.)
6. Select a quote or type of figurative language, such as a simile, that seems important / particularly significant. Comment in detail on your selection, noting specific words or ideas in the quote and how it might develop a central aspect of the text.
7. Describe the tone (attitude the speaker or sometimes the author has towards her/his subject) of a specific passage in the novel and explain its purpose (C.E.I.)
8. Pay attention to any of the following recurring images/motifs: horses, trains, blood, wind, trucks, maps, red, south, skulls, landscape, and clothes. Comment on how one of the motifs functions in this section of the narrative.
9. Talk to a character. Ask the character a question, scold them, advise them, yell at them, or beg them to change...whatever. Pretend the character is someone who may listen to you.
10. Select a passage that deals with a thematic element in the novel and discuss how the passage serves to develop the selected theme. (C.E.I.)

Adapted from Mr. Balla – Bellevue School District