Fitzgerald

Reader’s Response Journal Entry Analysis

Instead of writing a Reader’s Response Journal entry, you are to write an analysis of the thoughtfulness and development of the following three journal entries.

Reader Response #1

I was furious when that girl told Brogy all the stuff she did. I guess I understand they she had no clue what was going on and why they were doing it. But it still made me mad because I was hoping she would not get caught so she can get home and take the test so she and all the others know that don’t have the disease. Because if she can’t take the test then she basically has no chance.

Reader Response #2

 The scene on pp. 10-26 reminds me of a similar scene in the novel fever. In the scene in the Scourge Ani and her friend are about to be tested for the deadly Scourge. The people who took Ani and her friend looked for Signs for the scourge on them. Some of the signs of the Scourge include reddened skin, open wounds, Rashes, and fever. This reminds me of fever for a couple of resons. One of the main reasons in the novel Fever they also look for signs of the dieses, like yellow tinted eyes and a fever. Another reason this reminds me of Fever is that the fever patinets, and scourge patiets both have to be esolated away from other people, so if they have the sickness it wont spred. Fever and Scourge are similar in one last way. Fever and Scourge are both deadly sickness but Fever actually happened and was based off the yellow Fever.

Reader Response #3

 I guess this novel would be considered a fantasy novel, as it is not set in a real world, but the imaginary world is not very detailed. I actually like that. Since the exposition is supposed to make the reader aware of the setting, the first chapter does convey that the setting is in a fantasy world. The main character, Ani, must do battle with a “hecklebird” as she tried to get some “vinefruit,” and neither a “hecklebird” and “vinefruit” are real. As wardens arrive, Ani tells of her country of “Keldan” and the neighboring country of “Dulan,” and mentions an exploration of the “Scuttle Sea” that her friend’s father was forced to go on and the prisons on “Attic Island” where the Scourge started. None of these are real places. The wardens are out to catch five “grubs,” which Ani says is the name the townspeople or “pinchworms” call the “River People.” These are not real places or real groups of people. The conflict involves a disease called the “Scourge” which the River People seems to have been protected from getting by their use of “thrushweed” plant. Neither the disease and the medicinal plant are real. After the first chapter, though, there is only the stray mention of something unreal, like a “water cobra” that only a townsperson would be foolish enough to try to take a fish from (21), and maybe the time period seems a bit unreal, with somewhat medieval wagons and boats rowed or pulled by ropes for transportation, pick-able locks, sconces lighting hallways, men with titles like “Sir” Willoughby and “Warden” Brogg, women in dresses, servers in taverns, and girls who sing in the town square for coins.

This level of detail is just right for me. The famous fantasy novels like Tolkein’s *The Fellowship of the Ring* have way too much detail for me. If I have to take notes on all the details or need to buy companion books that list all the different types of creatures and maps to keep track of all the worlds, then I no longer enjoy a novel. I am much more interested in plot and theme and character. Baby bear would find the *The Scourge* has not too much detail, not too little detail, but just enough!