

Below is a sample entry from a student done in 2011 on *The Yearling*. The journal entry provides excellent personal anecdotes, as well as reactions to what occurs in the story. Quite good too is its use of quotes from the story to help drive the entry forward.

Entry # 7 (Chapter 14—"The Snake")

Short day of reading today, as I was in Orlando with my family! They decided earlier this week to go to Universal Studios, so we went. My sisters are getting better at the *Men in Black* ride, but they still can't touch my high score, thankfully.

In any case, I read Chapter 14 of *The Yearling*, which is the chapter with a large snake on it. I have to say I'm really enjoying the book. It seems that every chapter continuously talks about food, so I find myself wanting to eat while I read it. Unfortunately, I have yet to convince my parents to make me "sweet potato pone," which is apparently cornbread! Perhaps the most interesting happening in my book was when Pa was struck by the rattlesnake on page 145: "The rattler struck him from under the grape-vine without warning...he saw his father stagger backward under the force of the blow." I thought it extremely exciting that Jody's father was bitten by a snake, although I expected this to happen earlier, especially because Jody / Penny are always outside napping in the wilderness. To connect it to my own life, I remember when I was in elementary school, a friend of mine kicked a ball over the fence and when I went to go retrieve it, a rattlesnake was right next to the ball. I remember running back and reporting it to the teacher and feeling the adrenaline pumping, both from fear and excitement. Thus, I know how Jody feels at the moment.

In addition to this event, I had a "what the!?" moment while reading. It was on page 146/147 when Penny kills the doe and takes its liver to suck the poison out of his wound: "Penny slashed out the liver...a dark blood gushed and he pressed the warm liver against the incision [in his arm]...he took the meat away and looked at it...it was a venomous green." The way the author described the swelling of the snake bite and the way the doe was cut into made my stomach turn slightly. To be honest, I'd never heard of drawing poison out of a wound using a doe's liver and I'm not quite sure that it's very effective—after all, wouldn't the liver be covered in bacteria and lead to further infection? In any case, that's where my chapter left off, so I'll have to wait until Chapter 15 to see if Jody's father lives or dies!