

## READER RESPONSE / YONNONDIO QUESTION PROMPTS

### Question Prompt 1:

What's the purpose of Reader Response criticism? As an analytical tool, how does it help us understand literature better, and what exactly does it help us understand? What are we supposed to examine and talk about when we interpret a work of literature from a Reader Response perspective? What does Lynn mean when he says, as Reader Response critics do, that the reader "plays an active role in the making of meaning and that literary works in particular have a *subjective* status" (66)? How does this theoretical approach differ from that of New Criticism?

Reference specific passages to help you address these questions, and be specific in your answers.

### Question Prompt 2:

Using the Olsen material you read this week as your starting place, try out some of the theoretical principals you've learned from your recent study of Reader Response criticism. How do you respond to Olen's work, subjectively? How does that response help you make sense of the work, in turn making it more real and more meaningful? How does she construct her language in her characterizations of certain people, places or times to shape your response in a particular way? Why do you think she is trying to elicit certain responses from you - how does that serve her writing and help to make it more effective, "impactful" storytelling?

Look again at the vocabulary terms (**affect, effect, anticipation/expectation, implied reader, subjective response**) at the end of Chapter 4 in *Texts and Contexts* to help you with this discussion response. Reference specific passages to help you address these questions, and be specific in your answers.

### Question Prompt 3:

Using the Olsen material you read this week as your starting place, continue the same work you started in last week's discussion forum: try out some of the theoretical principals you've learned from your recent study of Reader Response criticism. How do you respond to Olen's work, subjectively? How does that response help you make sense of the work, in turn making it more real and more meaningful? How does she construct her language in her characterizations of certain people, places or times to shape your response in a particular way? Why do you think she is trying to elicit certain responses from you - how does that serve her writing and help to make it more effective, "impactful" storytelling?

Look again at the vocabulary terms at the end of Chapter 4 in *Texts and Contexts* to help you with this discussion response. Reference specific passages to help you address these questions, and be specific in your answers.