

Essay No. 4: A Response to Historical Fiction

- Written in the first person
- Must include cited scenes/quotes from *The Lions of Little Rock*
- Thesis statement is your main response to the book as work of historical fiction
- Two pages, Times New Roman, 12 pt., double-spaced, separate Works-Cited page

A response is a *reaction* to something. You wrote a response last semester that proved the truth behind “You are responsible for what you tame.” Now you must respond to *The Lions of Little Rock* as a work of historical fiction. Be sure to include *why* this book is characterized as historical fiction - show me that you understand the importance of authenticity.

Your responses should reflect what you learned from the book, whether it be historical facts or a deeper understanding of what it was like for Americans during the transition from segregation to integration. Your reaction should be *true to you* and not what you think I want to hear. (This is why you should be taking notes along the way.)

Your thesis statement should look something like this:

Reading *The Lions of Little Rock* taught me

After reading *The Lions of Little Rock*, I learned...

The Lions of Little Rock showed me that...

Questions to ask yourself before writing the rough draft:

1. What did I learn from this book about segregation and integration?
2. What did I learn about the positive and negative parts of human nature?
3. What did I learn about how people can act out of fear and ignorance?
4. What do I think about the words people used and the things they said to one another?
5. What do I believe about how others should treat one another?
6. Do I think historical fiction helps us understand one another and our shared history?

DATES TO REMEMBER

Share your notes via email no later than **Tuesday, Feb. 4, by 5 p.m.**

Share your rough draft via email no later than **Tuesday, Feb. 11, by 5 p.m.**

Submit your final essay in class no later than **Thursday, Feb. 20**

Remember: A rough draft is YOUR BEST EFFORT without my help. Do not send me something you know is a hot mess of ill-formatted, misspelled, jumbled words. **You are all capable of putting the essay in the correct format as well as running a spell-check.** I'll help you organize ideas and elevate writing.