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**Auszug aus:**

*Reading Documentation - A guide for reading short stories,  
novels or dramas*

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## I. Reading Documentation

A Reading Documentation accompanies your own personal reading process. It helps you to document the first impressions, opinions or feelings while reading a literary work. But a Reading Documentation does more than to structure your own thoughts. What was my first impression about a certain text passage? Have my expectations changed during the reading process? These questions often get lost along the way but they can be documented and reconstructed. You also collect valuable information towards interpretations or written exams.

A Reading Documentation promotes reading skills, writing skills and a productive, self-dependent work at home. The students note questions and problems that can be discussed in class afterwards. Therefore a Reading Documentation supports the development as well as the interpretation or repetition of a literary work.

### *Course of action:*

Use the following cover sheet and the template sheets „My Expectations“ and „Reading Marker“ in order to create a portfolio for a Reading Documentation. After these two pages...



... start reading your reading matter and begin a new passage in your Reading Documentation each time when ...

- a character seems important to you for the plot.
- a place is repeatedly mentioned that gains a special meaning.
- you recognize artistic devices used by the author e. g. special expressions or an unusual style.
- motifs or topics convey that are significant for several characters, the plot or the literary work as a whole.



... structure the reading matter by completing the Reading Marker concerning the matters mentioned above, e. g. to a certain text passage about a character.



... compare your own Reading Documentation with the one from a class mate when you have finished reading the whole work. Discuss the passages each one of you has documented. What could be added? Which aspects did you understand differently and why? This is not a matter of right or wrong, but it can be most interesting as to why you might have come to different interpretations.



... work subsequently on the other worksheets, add them to your folder and discuss your results with a class mate.



The following chart helps you to structure your reading process. It makes an orientation in the text easier for you and also provides a good first impression on the composition, the leitmotifs and major topics. Mark important passages with a slash and continue your list on the next pages if necessary.

pages	Place	time	characters	plot	leitmotifs
6 -20	<i>Bilbo's hobbit hole</i>	Next day after Gandalf's arrival	Bilbo, 13 dwarves	The dwarves persuade Bilbo into participating in the journey to the Lonely Mountain	desire for adventure vs. secure home

## II. Additional worksheets

### A first conclusion

After you have read the work completely now, you can phrase your personal overall impression about it. This serves as a starting point for a collective interpretation and discussion, because the first impression about a text can vary widely among readers.

#### Course of action:

Compose a first conclusion about the work you have read by documenting your personal impression after finishing reading. Furthermore, answer these questions:

- How did you like the literary work as a whole?
- Where there certain aspects that you didn't like at all or that you especially enjoyed?
- Did you have any problems during the reading process?

A large blue-bordered rectangular box containing a series of horizontal lines for writing. On the right side of this box, there is a smaller rounded rectangle containing a section titled "A thesis for interpretation" with a short paragraph and two lines for writing.

#### A thesis for interpretation

When you have finished writing your conclusion, think about how you could summarize the topic of the work in one sentence and write it down here:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



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