

Reading Journal – *The Rest is Silence*. 15% of course grade
Due: Wednesday, Jan. 4

Make sure your name is on the Reading Journal.
The requirement for a thoughtful title is suspended for this assignment only. The following format is encouraged:

Richard Cunningham – Reading Journal: Scott Fotheringham’s *The Rest is Silence*

Remember to submit your Reading journal via Acorn with a filename like this:
Cunningham.docx.

The purpose of your reading journal is to:

- help you capture your *developing* responses as a reader
- help you understand what you are reading
- record your thoughts *as you read*. Being yours, the journal, the written record of *your* thinking, will be completely different from anyone else’s.

What should you write?

- *comparisons* with things that have happened to you
- *accounts* of things that have happened to you that you are reminded of by events in the book
- *reflections* on things in the book that really strike you
- *reactions* to characters and what they do
- *comments* on how the author is telling the story
- *comments* on other books, films, plays, or poems that you have read which you are reminded when reading *The Rest is Silence*
- *questions* that come to you as you are reading
- *things that puzzle* you as you read
- anything else you *think* of as you are reading

How often should you write?

- Write often, while you are reading *The Rest is Silence*.
- Be sure to write something when you finish the novel as well.
- But *do not* write it all at the end!

What should entries in your reading journal look like?

- *Always date each entry.*

- Write down the page number at the beginning of your entry. Never mind “should”: this one, like the date, is a *requirement*.
- Do not retell the story – Professor Cunningham has read the novel several times and does not need to have it re-told to him.
- Write in the first person, eg. “I think . . .” or “I wonder . . .”
- Reading Journals are the place for you to write about your *response* to the work.
- Think of your journal as a conversation with yourself or with Professor Cunningham.
- Comment on setting, time, character development, and theme. Is the dialogue successful? Is the plot complicated?
- Use quotations from the novel so your reader can contextualize your thinking. This is another requirement.
- Write down the page number at the end of your entry. This one is also a requirement.

Possible ways to start your journal entries

- a. I notice . . .
- b. I wonder about . . .
- c. What puzzles me is . . .
- d. I do not understand . . .
- e. I now understand . . .
- f. What impresses me about this part of the story is . . .
- g. What I dislike in this section is . . .

Finally:

- Don’t forget to comment on the ending of the story. Was it predictable? Did you feel let down, inspired, intrigued, angry, etc.?

This is important: your journal will help you when you need to write your third paper, on *The Rest is Silence*.

The above has been adapted from a Reading Journal assignment given at Alfred Deakin High School, in Australia (<https://www.adhs.act.edu.au>)