

Engl 1423.FA02 - 2024

Reading Journal – *The Rest is Silence*. 20% of course grade

Due: Oct. 2, Nov. 2, Dec. 2

Make sure your name is on each submission of your 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 might 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 of 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, a summary paragraph sort of thing.
- But *do not* write your entire journal entry after reading roughly a third of the book! Write as you read.

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.
- You might comment on setting, time, character development, or 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.

Finally:

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

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