Responding to Literature: Companion Book Assignment

A companion book is a book that accompanies and elaborates on another already published book. The goal of a companion book is to provide the reader with a deeper understanding of concepts, themes, characters, places, and ideas in the original work.

Your goal is to write a companion book about The Outsiders. It will need to be typed and you may need to do some work at home as well as in school.

Your Companion Book should include...

- A Title Page
- A Table of Contents
  - The title of each chapter should be creative.
- Introduction
  - A summary of your book and a brief preview of each chapter.
- Chapter 1: Analysis of Theme
  - Identify one theme from The Outsiders. Cite at least 2 details or examples from the text and WRITE LONG to clarify.
- Chapter 2: Character Development
  - Discuss one dynamic character from The Outsiders. Explain who they are at the beginning, what they are conflicted over, and how they change throughout the novel.
- Chapter 3: Symbolism
  - Track one example of symbolism through The Outsiders.
- Conclusion
  - Offer a final analysis of the book and give a brief overall review.

Don’t forget, when responding to reading writer’s should...

- Record—and cite—important details, then offer your commentary about the detail.
- Explore themes (always using text evidence to support them).
- Use academic language (narrator, protagonist, resolution, etc.).
- Explain your thinking (WRITE LONG to clarify).
- Connect story elements (analyze ways elements impact each other).
- Pursue worthwhile thinking across the book (let the story guide you, write about the important parts).
- Analyze craft: how/why author used techniques and story elements (symbolism, time, multiple perspectives, etc.)
  - “The author used _____ in order to_____”