**Reading Commentary Menu**

**8th Grade ELA 2015/2016**

**Creative and Unusual Formats:**

* Create a comparison between yourself and a character in your book using a visual organizer such as a T-Chart, “Double Bubble,” or Web.
* Create a tree or web of character relationships and how they change. Use evidence to back up your ideas.
* Use comic book-style panels to develop a big idea or claim about your reading.
* Create a Facebook or other social media account for your character that gives us insight into how they would present themselves through a given website or app.
* Rewrite a final scene in your book once you have finished it to offer an alternative ending based on evidence from the story/characters.
* Create a timeline including evidence that shows a major change/shift throughout your book.
* Write a letter to a character or take on the voice of a character and write a letter from them to another character in the book.
* Create a twitter feed in the voice of your character either demonstrating things happening in their life in the book or imagining how they might feel about current events happening in our world.
* Use collage to create a visual representation of a big idea/claim your have about your book.
* Write about a song that you believe connects to or represents a character or scene in your book and show us why.
* Read over all of your post-its and find a pattern or claim that is emerging. Use that to extend the thinking on your post-its.
* Tape a particularly interesting post-it or two into your notebook and extend your thinking on it through writing and/or images.

**Things to remember when pushing yourself in your writing about reading:**

1. Focus on *one or two* big ideas or claims in each entry and write long on it.
2. Always use evidence to back up your thinking.
3. Show off your academic vocabulary! A main character is a protagonist. An important idea might be a theme. Authors make craft moves and use literary techniques.
4. Share why you think or feel what you do about a book: is it because of a personal connection you have to the story? Is it because it relates to a book you read in the past?