

Otto of the Silver Hand Reaction Paper
Alternate Instructions for Early Elementary

Your *Otto* writing project will be 4 paragraphs long, and each paragraph will have 3-5 sentences. The point of this writing project is to not only show that you've read and understood the book, but also that you've thought about it. Using your Reader's Response Journal to remember some of your ideas would be a really great thing!

Step 1: Start your writing with a title centered at the top of your page. "Otto Writing" is fine, or you can come up with your own. Underneath that, center "By (Your Name)."

Step 2: Begin your first paragraph indented. Start your writing with "*Otto of the Silver Hand* by Howard Pyle is a book about..." and finish with your own ideas. This should be a brief overview (remember, 3-5 sentences), and tell what the book is mostly about.

Step 3: Indent your second paragraph. This paragraph should begin with "I think this story is meant to teach us about..." and finish with your own ideas. Remember, while the book IS meant to teach us about life in the medieval ages, you're going to choose something "deeper," like trust, loyalty, chivalry, oppression etc. The rest of the sentences in your paragraph should explain this idea, and can use examples from the book.

Step 4: Indent your third paragraph. This paragraph should begin with something like this: "This book makes me feel..." and finish with your own ideas. Use some examples from the book here, too. For example, if I might write, "This book makes me feel lucky to grow up thankful to grow up surrounded by people I can trust. It made me very sad when Otto was dropped off at the monastery by his father, but I was grateful that Brother John raised him with love and kindness. He learned to trust Brother John and the others in the monastery, and I think that helped him become a trustworthy person. Later in his life when he met Pauline, he knew that he could trust her to help him get out of Baron Henry's castle, and I think that Pauline sensed that she could trust Otto to keep his promises, too. In the middle of a world full of violence and uncertainty, trustworthiness must have been a hard thing to find!" Use your own ideas, though...did it make you feel happy? Excited? Confused? Appreciative? Curious? Tell me about it!

Step 5: Indent your fourth paragraph. This final paragraph should begin with something like this: "When I think about *Otto of the Silver Hand*, it makes me want to..." and finish with your own ideas. Think about what you thought the book was trying to tell you. Does it make you want to be a better friend? Help people around you who might be hurting? Always try to do the right thing? Use your own ideas and explain them to me!