The Primary use of a reading response notebook is to help individuals become better readers by:

- Engage in critical thinking and learning about how to interpret a text
- Connecting reading and writing
- Developing flexibility in responding and going beyond simple retelling and answering questions
- Using the notebook to promote and support discussions
- Formulating thoughtful and personal responses to what they read
- Responding and reflecting continually during the reading of a text
- Engaging in meaningful independent work while the teachers works with a group of students
- Collecting, examining, and using interesting words and language patterns
- Examining the writer’s craft and recording the techniques they notice for later discussion and use in their own writing
- Sketching or drawing to express their understanding in images as a support for discussion or writing