

This is an modeled example of the kinds of things students can write about in a reading response journal. This example uses Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day by Judith Viorst. Make an overhead transparency and point out the different ideas discussed in this journal entry.

Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day by Judith Viorst.

I noticed this story has a circular text structure. It begins and ends in the same place. I also noticed Viorst uses repetition as part of her organizational strategy. The organizational pattern that she uses is easy to follow. I think that I can write my own version of the story. *Notice the organizational text structure.*

In the story, everything that can go wrong in a day goes wrong for Alexander. I've had days like that. Sometimes my mornings don't start out to well. I can think of three different times that my husband took my car keys with him. I didn't have a way to get to school! One time I had to call a cab. Another time, I had to ask Mrs. Plato to pick me up, and still another time, I had to catch a ride to school with a neighbor. It was very frustrating! Alexander wanted to move to Australia. I just wanted to go back to bed! *Personally connect to the text.*

I predicted Alexander's day would get better, but it never did. Alexander's mom says, "Some days are like that." I think that is true. Some days just don't seem to go right at all. *Make and confirm or adjust predictions.*

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The book was really funny. It made me laugh. Alexander had lots of crazy things happen to him, but he also whined about things that probably shouldn't matter that much. Maybe he had a bad day because he had a bad attitude. If I feel cranky, then I can create my own bad day. But if I tell myself I feel good, and I'm going to have a terrific day, then I usually do. This book reminds me of a saying - "It's not what happens to you, but how you handle what happens that makes the difference." I think this saying means it's really all about my attitude, and how I choose to handle what happens. Sometimes you can't help what happens, but you can help how you deal with what happens. *Personally connect to the text.*