

## *Empire of the Sun* Reader Response Prompt

*Empire of the Sun* is a film about a young boy James Gray who is separated from his parents in Shanghai during the Japanese occupation of the city during World War 2. Jamie ends up under the care of a man named Basie. Basie becomes a “father” figure to Jamie throughout the next 3 years while he is apart from his parents. One definition of father is: a man who exercises paternal care over other persons; paternal protector or provider. Create an argument for or against the notion that Basie was a good “father” figure to Jamie during his time away from his parents. Was Basie a good “father” to Jamie?

### Reader Response Instructions

Essentially, you will be writing a 3-paragraph essay. You should have an introduction, body paragraph, and a conclusion. These reader responses will have the same exact rules as our formal essays. They will all take the form of an argument where you will have to take a stance and support that stance with quotes from the text. If you are writing this for a film, use specific examples from the film as your evidence. **No need for quotes.**

These will be worth 100 points each. The intro and conclusion are worth 25 points. The body paragraph is worth 50. I will be grading these responses with the rubric that I provided for you on my website. It breaks down exactly how I assign points for these responses.

**Intro-** Start with an attention getter, start broad in your background information. BRIEFLY summarize the story, introduce the title and director, and introduce the conflict. State your stance on the topic in your thesis. Thesis should be an open thesis, not a closed (ABC) thesis.

**Body Paragraph-** Your topic sentence will be more specific and hint at the support for your stance that your paragraph will support. **Be sure to respond to the counterargument in the second half of your body paragraph, and make sure to write a rebuttal for the counterargument. Be sure to watch Mr. Fannon’s instructional video on how to write the paragraph for this assignment if you were absent in class the day he explained the prompt.**

**Conclusion-** Revisit your thesis, summarize your main points, and be sure to relate to the big picture.