Not Another Book Report, Please!

I’m not sure who dreads book reports more, the teacher or the student. These dry, lifeless beasts are not fun to write and not fun to read. Hopefully, by using this format, you will be able to discover something about the characters you read about. Question #7 asks you to respond to the literary work you read. At all times remember your audience - a tired, well-intentioned English teacher who has read (and will read) a ton of book reports. Interest him! Make him laugh! Try to find an interesting angle from which you can approach your book! (The types of writing and thinking expected are in the parentheses.)

1. Full title, author’s name, copyright date, and number of pages: For a novel or play, underline the title; for a short story, use quotation marks.
2. Give a brief summary of the plot: Must be no more than seven sentences long. (Report of information)
3. Explain the significance of the title: authors do not choose a title randomly. Usually there is an important reason and the title is symbolic. (Reflection, speculation)
4. Describe your first impressions of the main character: Give examples to explain your ideas. (Observation)
5. Identify what caused a change in the main character and how the main character changed: These changes may have been a consequence of choice, a conflict of some kind that has to be resolved, a display of some outstanding trait like courage, or even the result of events that occur during the novel. Sometimes these changes are drastic. Sometimes the character changes in subtle ways. (Interpretation)
6. Cite a memorable passage from the book: Copy word for word a short passage that you thought was worth remembering. Explain why you chose this passage. Give the page number. (Evaluation)
7. Read all of the following questions and then write one response about the significance of reading this literary work. What discovery did you make as a result of reading this book? What did this book make you think about or remind you of from real life? In what ways does the book “ring true” about people or situations in our world? Please, please, please do not write answers to these questions, rather write a reflection that deals with these issues or these types of issues. (Reflection)

This report should be in “final draft form.” Refer to your Style Sheet for details.

Due date: __________________