Task Prompt: Using the reading knowledge collected during the course of this unit, students will write a critique of their independent reading novels. Students will include a summary of the story, opinions on the story, and the theme, without giving the end away.

_The Adoration of Jenna Fox_ by Mary E. Pearson

Identity

“I used to be someone. Someone named Jenna Fox. That’s what they tell me. But I am more than a name. More than they tell me. More than the facts and statistics they fill me with. More than the video clips they make me watch. More. But I’m not sure what.”

_The Adoration of Jenna Fox_ is a science fiction novel told from the point of view of a 17 year old girl named Jenna Fox. Jenna had just awakened from a year and a half long coma, with no memory of herself or anyone else. When she is told the secrets her parents have been keeping from her about her accident, and body, she must keep her mouth shut or else everything will go wrong.

This book was very exciting for me to read because Mary E. Pearson added many details that kept me on the edge of my seat the whole time. For example, italicized words were repeatedly used to remind you of the earlier times in the book when Jenna had remembered or looked up vocabulary. This created a unique pattern in the book that I particularly enjoyed. The author also consistently changed the pace of the book. The pace was faster, when Jenna was spitting out thoughts and either angry or scared, and the pace was slower when Jenna was discovering new things, when her thoughts were calmer and more mysterious.

I really like the theme of this book, which was self-search and identity. Even though Jenna’s character was a bit unusual, I felt that I could relate to some of her thoughts, and her need to be understood and accepted. Just like Jenna, I am trying to find myself, and build off of my personality. This was one of the main reasons I was so engaged in this book, because each
page I turned made me care more for her character, and fear for her. The little details the author includes throughout the book sucked me in, and kept me reading what was going to happen next.

This book’s combination of different perspectives, and strong plot, creates a relatable, exciting read for people who enjoy fiction books, with a mix of science and a little bit of romance.
# Critique Rubric

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<th>ON TARGET</th>
<th>ALMOST THERE</th>
<th>WORKING ON IT</th>
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<td>RESPONSE/OPINION</td>
<td>Uses many details from the book to express opinion of the plot, characters, writing style, and other elements of storytelling.</td>
<td>Uses some details to express opinion of the plot, characters, writing style, and other elements of storytelling.</td>
<td>Uses few details to express opinion of the plot, characters, writing style, and other elements of storytelling.</td>
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<tr>
<td>RECOMMENDATION</td>
<td>Gives positive or negative recommendation on the book and uses specific reasons from the text to support opinion.</td>
<td>Gives positive or negative recommendation on the book, but only uses some specific reasons from the text to support opinion.</td>
<td>Gives positive or negative recommendation on the book, but uses few specific reasons from the text to support opinion.</td>
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This paper is an example of an advanced 8th grade Book Critique. The writer gives a clear opinion about the book and includes her own experience reading the text and suggests other reader who would like this book. Her overall organization begins with a hook and proceeds to a summary before naming an argument she has about the content of the book and she concludes with a recommendation. She weaves her argument about enjoying the book into each of these organization elements. Her brief inclusions about her personal experiences of the book do not overwhelm her examples or argument, but they bring good voice to the writing.