How to write a Short-Answer Response

Turn to a new page in the writing section of your journal and copy down everything you see below!

Short Answer Response = One Thesis Statement + one form of support + closing statement. (SAR= TS + S + CS)

Thesis Statement: The thesis statement is that sentence or two in your text that contains the focus of your essay and tells your reader what the essay is going to be about. (You must restate the question in your thesis statement.)

Closing Statement: A final sentence that wraps up your response.

(Never say, “I am going to write about ...”)
Short Answer Example Question: Why do you think reading is an important skill to have?

Short Answer Example Response: I think that reading is an important skill to have because it allows us to become stronger in other skills. If I am a skilled reader, I can become a skilled writer. If I become a skilled writer, I can become successful in both the academic and professional world. Without being a good reader, all of these things would be much more difficult if not impossible.
“Night”

By: Bret Lott
He woke up. He thought he could hear their child’s breathing in the next room, the near-silent, smooth sound of air in and out.

He touched his wife. The room was too dark to let him see her, but he felt her movement, the shift of blanket and sheet.

“Listen,” he whispered.

“Yesterday,” she mumbled. “Why not yesterday,” and she moved back into sleep.

He listened harder, though he could hear his wife’s breath, thick and heavy next to him, there was beneath this the thin frost of his child’s breathing.

The hardwood floor was cold beneath his feet. He held out a hand in front of him, and when he touched the doorjamb, he paused, listened again, heard the life of his child.

His fingertips led him along the hall and to the next room. Then he was in the doorway of a room as dark, as hollow as his own. He cut on the light.

The room, of course, was empty. They had left the bed just as their child had made it, the spread merely thrown over bunched and wrinkled sheets, the pillow crooked at the head. The small blue desk was littered with colored pencils and scraps of construction paper, a bottle of white glue.

He turned off the light and listened. He heard nothing, then back out of the room and moved down the hall, back to his room, his hands at his sides, his fingertips helpless.

This happened each night, like a dream, but not.
Identify the following literary elements with your group:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Literary Element</th>
<th>Icon</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Imagery</td>
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<tr>
<td>Symbolism</td>
<td>★</td>
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<td>Suspense</td>
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<tr>
<td>Simile</td>
<td>😊</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shift in Mood</td>
<td>😞</td>
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<tr>
<td>Point of View</td>
<td>1, 2, 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inference</td>
<td>🙄</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Why does the narrator say, “it happened each night, like a dream, but not,” in the text?

The narrator in *Night* says *quote from the question* because *claim about the quote*. *Author* proves the claim through *textual evidence support of the claim*. Therefore, *closing statement*.

The narrator in “Night” says, “it happened each night, like a dream, but not,” in order to show that the main character has woken up multiple times hearing his dead child’s breathing. *Lott proves the claim though the phrase, “the room, of course, was empty,” proving that he has been there more than once.* Therefore, *Lott uses this phrase to show this action has been like a reoccurring dream.*
Group O.E.R.

• Your group will be assigned one of the remaining “Night” O.E.R. questions to complete.
• Your group will produce the same response, but you will all write one.
• Be sure to use the formula: \( SA = TS + S + CS \)