Tracking your thinking over the course of a book:

I used to think ___________, but now I think _____________.
I still think ___________, but I’d like to add _______________.
Others think ___________, but I think _________________.

Things to track over time:
A character:
• How does he/she change?
• What insights does the character gain?

What big ideas are being developed?
• What conflict arises?
• What do these conflicts tell the reader?
• What claims does the author make? What passages support these claims?

What techniques/moves does the writer make?
• What literary devices are used? (e.g. foreshadowing, personification).
• Where does the author use punctuation and sentence structure effectively?
• Notice beautiful sentences/passage. Comment on them.

Track your confusion
• What is confusing at the beginning of the book? Does the confusion remain or does it clear up?
• What passages/sentences/words do you find confusing? Show evidence that you are wrestling with the confusion.

Thought starters:
• I noticed...
• I wonder...
• I was reminded of...
• I think...
• I’m surprised that...
• I’d like to know...
• I realized...
• If I were...
• The central issue(s) is (are)...
• One consequence of ________ could be...
• If __________, then...
• I’m not sure...
• Although it seems...

“That” statements
This passage makes me think that...
This makes me feel that...
The author is suggesting that...

Source: Donna Santman/Kelly Gallagher