

Summer Reading Project 2010 (200 points)

Students in grades 9-12 are assigned **one** book from the list below. This book must be read in the course of the summer. Read, review, take notes, and write. On the **first day** of school, grade 9-12 students must submit their project:

Grades 10-12: a five-hundred word, five paragraph, MLA-style essay.

Grade 9: a three page book report

Students in grade 8 will read **two** books. Students will complete a book report in the format that has been provided (see "book report" format below)

Students in grade 7 will perform a special project (see "tic-tac-toe" project below)

Students in grade 6

Assigned Books:

Grade 12

Strumpet City by James Plunkett

Dracula by Bram Stoker

Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte

Great Expectations by Charles Dickens

Grade 11

The Heart is a Lonely Hunter by Carson McCullers

In Cold Blood by Truman Capote

One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest by Ken Kesey

Shoeless Joe by W.P. Kinsella

Grade 10

A Confederacy of Dunces by John Kennedy Toole

Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury

Lord of the Flies by William Golding

Once We Were Warriors by Alan Duff

Grade 9

Black Like Me by John Howard Griffin

A Gathering of Old Men by Ernest J. Gaines

To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee

Grade 8

Fast Sam, Cool Clyde, and Stuff by Walter Dean Myers

Bang, by Sharon G. Flake

Grade 7 (see below)

Grade 6

The Planet of Junior Brown by Virginia Hamilton (mandatory reading)

The Bridge to Terabithia by Katherine Patterson

A Matter of Trust by Anne Schraff

The essay for grades 9-12 must include the following:

- ❖ Introduction, concluding, and body paragraphs. Your essay must have a clear thesis and topic sentences for each body paragraph. Your conclusion should draw all points together.
- ❖ Your own original analysis of the themes and message of your book, complete with references to major characters and examples from your plot which support your themes.

Testing Procedure:

1. A five hundred word essay, MLA format, double spaced, Times New Roman, 12 pt font, margins all round. Your name, the date, and the name of the book must be on the top left-hand corner.

100 points

2. An individual 1-1 conference with your English teacher to discuss the story and the contents of your essay.

50 points

3. A multiple choice quiz which will concentrate on details from within the book.

50 points

If the report is not submitted during our first class of school, you will receive a zero for the entire project.

Plagiarism

Refer to the school handbook for school policy in regards to plagiarism. It is better to receive a low grade for poor work, than a zero plus other disciplinary measures for copying from other sources without crediting your source. Copying work and simply citing this, also known as cut-and-paste, is not your work. The essay must be at least 90% of **your own words**. You may cite certain elements from the text to support your thesis and points, but ensure your work has both in-text and a works cited page. A works cited page must accompany any book report and must cite the assigned book. To be on the safe side, **do not use** websites such as sparknotes.com, enotes.com, Wikipedia.com, echeat.com, or any other website which “helps” you understand the book. Your summer reading project is an opportunity to read new and challenging books, not to take the easy way out by using the internet.

For Grade 6:

Mandatory Book Assignment

- I. Keep a journal in a folder (with clips). In the folder you should have:
 1. A log of dates for each day you read, the number of pages, and a parent’s signature for each day to verify you entry log.
 2. A list of new words from your reading. Write under the new word:
 - a. The sentence from the story containing the new word
 - b. The definition
- II. Write a summary for each book. All summaries will go into a 3-subject notebook (must be in cursive writing).
 1. The title of the book
 2. The name of the author
 3. A list of main characters
 4. The setting for the story
 5. A description of the problem/struggle and the resolution in the story (at least 5 or more sentences)
 6. One paragraph (at least 10 sentences) telling the main idea of the story.

- III. Write a personal critique. The critique must go in your notebook (hand-written in cursive)
1. Tell what you liked about the book (in 3 sentences)
 2. Name your favorite character. And why? (in 3 sentences)
 3. Tell what you learned about life from the story (in 3 sentences)

In the journal folder describe in one paragraph the possible sequel to the mandatory novel.

For the other 2 novels do only Part II.

For Grade 7:

Choose a novel that appeals to your heritage, culture, and deals with past experiences, present experience or experiences you hope to have. Choose your novel from the following websites:

www.bravemonster.com/pastwinners.htm

www.mahoganybookstore.com

www.brownsbooks.com

From the Tic Tac Toe chart, write three (3) papers using the information found therein. The three (3) choices must make a Tic Tac Toe either horizontally, vertically, or diagonally. These papers will require research! Each paper should be between 150 and 200 words.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| <p>What was happening artistically during the time frame of the novel? (Musically (popular styles), visual arts (schools of painting ie. Realism, abstract, ashcan etc. noted artists), drama, dance, practical and functional arts)</p> | <p>What were current or prevailing trends in the mathematics areas? Where any old math ideas discarded in favor of new ideas and theories?</p> | <p>What was going on scientifically in the United States and around the world during the setting of the novel? (new medicines, new surgical procedures, new theories in physics, chemistry, biology, geology, astronomy, etc.)</p> |
| <p>What was happening of historical importance in the United States and the world? (Who were the famous people of the time, what did they accomplish, was their strife in the world or the U.S., where important events unfolding? What impact was felt?</p> | <p>Using your novel, write a literary analysis of the novel addressing the following items: Setting, characters, plot, global implications, a reflection of how the novel impacts or relates to your experiences, what you liked about the novel, what you didn't like about the novel, your overall evaluation of the novel.</p> | <p>What technological achievements were currently being used and developed during the time frame of the novel? Where there new inventions? In what age (stone, bronze, nuclear, etc.) was the story set? (Keep in mind technology can be anything that makes life easier for people.)</p> |
| <p>What were the predominant forms of entertainment people enjoyed? This category should address all the media of the setting of this novel (Film, television, books, radio, magazines, and newspapers. It should also address the sports arena of the time. What sports and players were popular? Were Olympics played at the time? Did any famous winners emerge?</p> | <p>Rewrite the novel in a dramatic way (a play) or a screenplay (if for a movie or documentary). Then video-tape or record a scene that demonstrates the climax and resolution of the plot. (You may need to research the proper formats for plays and screen plays.)</p> | <p>Using the elements of plot, write an in depth analysis of the novel. Address exposition, conflict, rising action, falling action, and resolution</p> |

Lesson 1 Writing about Books

Book Reports

A book report summarizes the information contained in a book and usually follows a specific format.



You might remember that when Ali Baba of the *Arabian Nights* wanted to enter the magic cave, he had to say "Open Sesame" as a kind of password. Books are the passwords that admit us to a far more wonderful place than the one Ali Baba enjoyed. Books give us access to a whole world of treasures. They allow us to take part in the adventures of men and women of all times and of all nations. Books can be our guides to the beauties of the great physical world about us. Through literature, we learn to appreciate the wisdom of great men and women who have lived in years gone by.

Have you enjoyed reading a good book recently? Talking or writing about favorite books in class makes others eager to read the stories you have enjoyed, and it helps you discover interesting books that you might like to read.

Keeping a record of books you have read will help you to remember them. A book report does not have to be long, just long enough to summarize the story. When you finish reading a book, you should first write a rough draft that includes the main ideas in the story. Then write down the information that is needed to complete the following basic format:

1. Title
2. Author
3. Publisher and date of publication
4. Type of book (fiction, science fiction, historical fiction, fantasy, nonfiction, biography, play, etc.)
5. Principal characters
6. Brief summary
7. Personal reaction



MODEL: A Book Report

TITLE: *The Island of the Blue Dolphins*
AUTHOR: Scott O'Dell
PUBLISHER: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1960
TYPE: Historical fiction
CHARACTERS: Karana, an Indian girl; Ramo, her brother; Rontu, leader of the wild dogs

SUMMARY: In his novel, *The Island of the Blue Dolphins*, Scott O'Dell weaves the tale of Karana, an Indian girl, and Ramo, her younger brother. Alone on their deserted island home, they battle starvation, wild dogs, and their own fear as they anxiously await the return of the "big ship." When Ramo is killed by the dog pack, Karana swears revenge. Her resolute anger begins a lifestyle of determination and resourcefulness. For eighteen years, this remarkable girl leads an almost solitary existence, her only friends the creatures she manages to tame.

Karana learns that life's lessons are often ironic when she befriends the target of her hatred, the leader of the dog pack. The dog then enriches her lonely exile. Her understanding of herself deepens each time she experiences nature's protection or treachery.

In an attempt to reconstruct the details of the girl's almost incredible island life, O'Dell creates a story that captivates with a sense of daring adventure. At the same time, the story demonstrates to the reader the great strength of the human spirit. Readers will not soon forget the island or the girl who conquered it.

MY REACTION: I kept thinking about the tremendous power of human beings to survive and to accept life's hardships. Karana's mastery of the wilderness inspired me and made me admire her courage and determination.

