

Monthly Genre Reading Homework

Every month you will have an independent reading assignment to complete at home. You will be required to read ONE just-right book a month from the designated genre, BUT I hope you'll continue to read a variety of other books at home as well. Books must be a minimum of 48 pages long. If you need a book, you can borrow one from the classroom library.

After reading your book from the month's designated genre, you will complete a project on that book. (For example: The project for October will be completed based on the mystery book you read). For the book project, you will choose one of the suggested ideas for each month. *A book project idea can be chosen only one time throughout the year.* To help you keep track of projects you have already completed, please check off each activity after you have completed it. Attached is a list of all the project ideas and guidelines. There are 14 project ideas and only 7 months, so you won't complete all of them. If you have a new, unique project idea, please share it with Mr. Parent before designing your own project.

Be sure to look at the rubric on the last page of this packet before completing your project so you know what is expected.

On the next page is a list of the selected book genres and due dates. In order to complete the assignments on time, it is essential to plan ahead and manage time wisely. Generally I recommend that students try to finish reading their book a week before the project is due, so they have a week to work on the project component. Please see Mr. Parent if you have any further questions.

Monthly Genres and Due Dates

- **October** - Mystery - due Friday, October 25th
- **November** - Non-Fiction (not a biography) - due Tuesday, November 19th
- **December** - Realistic Fiction - due Friday, December 20th
- **January** - No genre project due in lieu of the science fair. Students will have due dates throughout the month of January for different parts of their projects.
- **February** - Autobiography/Biography/Memoir - due Wednesday, February 26th
- **March** - Historical Fiction - due Friday, March 27th
- **April** - Fantasy - due Friday, April 24th
- **May** - Award Winner (Newbery Award, Coretta Scott King Award, Horn Book Award, or ALA Notable - see list on class website) - due Friday, May 22nd

Reading Project Choices

FOR ANY GENRE

Oral Book Review

You will be presenting an oral review to your class. Your review should last between 3-5 minutes. It should include:

- Title and author of the book
- A rating of 1-5 (5 being the highest) and why you did or did not like the book
- For FICTION books: main characters, setting, problem, theme/message, and at least 3 main events.
- For NON-FICTION books: main idea and five important details.

A good book review shares neat details about the book in order to get people interested and want to read it, but it DOES NOT give away the ending. It is suggested that you make note cards to help you during your speech and they will be collected after your presentation. Optional: create a PowerPoint presentation to go along with your review.

Newspaper Article

Write a newspaper article that might appear in a local newspaper during the time period of your book. Your article should

- Be at least 4-5 paragraphs long
- Include the main story elements for fiction (main characters, setting, problem, events, solution, theme/message) and should be written with the dialect from your novel.
- Include the main idea and at least 5 details for non-fiction.
- Written like a current event NOT a book summary
- Have a catchy title, columns, illustrations

Timeline

Create a timeline for the book you read. You need to include

- The main events in your novel, person's life (for a biography), or from a historical event (for a non-fiction text)
- At least 10 main events
- 5 of the events need to have small illustrations
- For at least 5 of the events, you need to explain why that event is important.

You may type or handwrite your timeline. You can also do an online timeline. Two websites you can use are www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/interactives/timeline_2/ and <http://www.timetoast.com/>. If your project is handwritten, it needs to be in cursive. You may also use the computer for your illustrations, however, you cannot use scanned illustrations from the novel.

FOR ANY GENRE (continued)

Poem or Song

Write a creative poem or song about your novel. Your poem or song should be

- At least 15 lines long
- Creatively include all of the main story elements (main characters, setting, problem, events, solution, and theme) for fiction or main idea and 5 important details for non-fiction

Book Jacket

Create a new book jacket for your book. The cover should include:

- Title
- Author
- Original illustration

You need information on the inside jackets (front and back folds) as well as the back cover. Be sure to include a

- Summary (including the main characters, setting, problem)
- 2 or more original reviews of the book (both of these reviews are made up by you) (this is your chance to go beyond the text!)

If you want to create it on the computer, a website you can use is <http://www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/interactives/bookcover/> (Recommendation: type the information in a word processing program, then copy/paste it onto the website)

Commercial

Create a commercial for the book you read. The goal is to be persuasive and try to get others to read the book. You should give reasons why we would want to read the book. The commercial should be 2-4 minutes in length. You can either record a digital story or podcast. Your commercial should include the title and author of the book.

For fiction, include the main story elements (setting, characters, problem, theme or lesson). If possible, do NOT include the solution since this often gives away the ending.

For non-fiction, include the main idea (big idea) and at least five important facts that support this idea.

Some of the programs that can be used to make the commercial is iMovie or Microsoft MovieMaker. For a podcast you can use Garage Band, VoiceThread, or Audacity. A useful website that will help you with the process is <http://westwood.wikispaces.com/Simple+steps+to+podcasting>

You need bring it in on a flash drive (or email it to me) before the due date, so we can make sure it works. Be prepared to have this shown to the class.

FICTION OR BIOGRAPHY PROJECTS

Imaginary Interview

Write an imaginary interview between you and one of the main characters from the novel (or the person from the biography) you read. Your interview needs to have

- At least 10 “deep-thinking” questions (with answers), which require more than one word/sentence to answer.
- An opening and closing to your interview (which is not included in the 10 questions).

We should know the problem, main events, and setting of the book, as well as character traits that would describe the person.

Letters

Write letters between you and one of the main characters/subjects from the novel you read. You need to have

- At least 2 letters from each person (4 letters in total).
- Each letter should be about 1-2 paragraphs in length
- Each letter needs to start with a greeting and must include at least one question.
- The letter should also answer the question asked in the previous letter.
- The main story elements (main characters, setting, problem, events, and solution) should be included in the letters as a whole.

Graffiti

Create a poster of “graffiti” depicting symbols from the book or character traits. You need to include at least four symbols, the title, and author. On a separate sheet of paper, write at least two paragraphs explaining the symbols. Be sure to include examples from the book to support your symbols. Be creative and colorful!

Scrapbook

Create a scrapbook that would belong to a main character from your book (therefore it should be written in first person). The scrapbook should

- Be in chronological order
- Depict at least 5 main events from the book using different pictures, letters, postcards, memorabilia, etc.
- For each item, there is a short explanation letting the reader know why the item was included (remember to write in first person since the scrapbook “belongs” to the character) (why would it be important to the character, what does it have to do with the story) (this is where you could go beyond the text).

The scrapbook could also be done digitally. One free website for this is www.mixbook.com, although there are many others that would work as well.

FICTION OR NON-FICTION SOCIAL STUDIES PROJECTS

Travel Brochure

Create a unique tri-fold travel brochure that advertises the main setting from your novel. Your brochure should include

- A detailed description of the setting
- Specific things a visitor may see and/or do while visiting (for fiction, this is based on the events of the book and is how you can summarize the plot of your book)
- Illustrations that highlight the uniqueness of your setting

Remember, you want people to come visit your setting, so be creative!

Map with explanations of important places

Draw a map showing where your book takes place.

- Label the map with place names and explanations of why a particular place is important or what important event happened there (from the book)
- You need to have a minimum of 6 locations.
- You can also use a map key/legend in addition to labels.
- If it is a real place, you could use Google maps and place pins for different places. Then for the description of the pin, you can explain why its an important place.

FICTION ONLY PROJECTS

Write another chapter for your book. (Or, rewrite the ending.)

- You should number or title the chapter accordingly (ex: 9 ½. if it fits between 9 And 10)
- The chapter should be at least four paragraphs long.
- In addition to writing the chapter, you should write an explanation of how this chapter fits in the book and why you chose it. If you choose to rewrite the ending, explain in a separate paragraph why you feel the ending should be rewritten.
- Try to imitate the style or voice of the author as much as possible so that your chapter fits with the book as seamlessly as possible
- After reading your chapter, it should be obvious who the most important characters were in the book and what the most important events or problem were.

NON-FICTION ONLY PROJECTS

Fact Accordion

1. Fold a 9" x 12" piece of construction paper in half hamburger style, cut along the fold.
2. Tape the short ends together creating a longer sheet of paper.
3. Make the accordion book by folding the paper about 1/6 of the way, then take that sixth and fold back. Continue folding back and forth until you reach the other end. You should have 6 total sections.
4. Find 10 important facts in your nonfiction book.
5. On the first section (on the left) write the title and author of your book. Add an illustration related to the topic.
6. On each remaining section, write a fact and an illustration for that fact.
7. When you run out of room, turn over and continue on back. You will have 5 facts on the front, 5 on the back.
8. On the last section on the back, write a conclusion you have arrived at from reading your book. In other words, tell me what the big idea from the book is.

Monthly Genre Project Rubric

Name: _____ Month: _____

Book: _____ Level: _____

	Points Earned	Points Possible
Summarizes and synthesizes the text.		15
Project shows understanding that goes beyond the text. Examples: • Draws conclusions/inferences and <u>supports them with examples</u> (i.e. identifies the theme/message, character traits, character's motives, author's purpose, etc.) • Makes deep connections to extend meaning		20
Assignment follows directions and guidelines for chosen project.		10
Assignment is presented in an organized way (typed or legible cursive, no ripped/wrinkled papers, etc.) (For oral book reports: enunciates, projects voice, well-prepared, eye-contact with audience)		5
Project shows creativity		5
Read book from the appropriate genre		5
Turned in on time		5
Total		65

Comments: