Mrs. Bitel’s Independent Reading Project

**What is this project?**

This is an independent reading project; meaning, you will choose a book and read it OUTSIDE of class. Of course, there may be times when you have free time to read in class (after a quiz or if you finish an assignment early) but plan to read the book entirely on your own. I truly want you to ENJOY what you are reading, and that really is the point of this assignment. If you explore honestly, READ, and stay on top of your due dates, then you’re guaranteed to do well on this project.

The project itself will not simply be finding and reading a book. You will have to complete all of the individual parts of the project in order to get **maximum credit**.

**What am I turning in?**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Project Component** | **Weight** | **DUE DATE** |
| 1. Two reading logs (about a page or two pages each) | F2 | Log 1: October 26  Log 2: November 9 |
| 1. Project proposal | S1 | November 12 |
| 1. Final project | S2 | November 20 |

**Where do I get the book?**

**YOU MUST HAVE A BOOK SELECTED AND APPROVED BY: WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 17**

Libraries are a great option for borrowing books. We will go to the PHS library on FRIDAY OCTOBER 12. The Cecil County Public Libraries also have a great selection of young adult literature and teen reads. Feel free to browse. Also, check around your home and ask friends and family members for recommendations. I have a small classroom library of books that I can loan out as well as long as the books are returned in the same condition as they were when loaned. You must sign out the book with me. **If borrowing a book from the library, please note that YOU are responsible for returning it on time.**

**What should I read?**

Start with your interests or hobbies. I know most of you DO have things you are passionate about (sports, music, history, relationships, mechanics) and there is no shortage of novels/books dealing with this range of topics. You can do a simple search at a website like [www.barnesandnoble.com](http://www.barnesandnoble.com) to find books dealing with a topic of your choosing. Also keep in mind the kind of reading level you’re comfortable with.

You CAN read **NON-fiction works** though I’d prefer you read **FICTION** books with conventional plots or storylines. Should you read a **NON-fiction** work, you will need to get my approval before using that title for your project.

**NOTE:** Most **“How-To” books** (How to rebuild a carburetor, how to knit a quilt; how to kill a kangaroo with a garden hose), certain kinds of genre fiction (romance novels, children’s literature) and child’s picture books ***cannot be used for your book project***. As the saying goes, don’t even ask. Also, works with ‘adult’ content may require parental permission. By ‘adult’ content, I mean strong language, adult situations and sexuality, and excessive violence. I reserve the right to veto any book choice that I feel is of questionable merit/content.

Reading Log Guide

**What does it look like?**

Write your reading response on a sheet of lined paper or type it if you prefer. In your heading, include:

* Name
* Date
* Period
* Book title and author
* Number of pages read so far

**How do I begin?**

As you read, write your personal response in your reading log. State your feelings, thoughts, reactions, and questions about situations, ideas, actions, characters, settings, symbols, plot, theme, and any other elements of the book. You can't be wrong in your responses, so take some risks and be honest. Write about what you like or dislike, what seems confusing or unusual to you. Tell what you think something means. Make predictions about what might happen later. Relate your personal experiences which connect with the plot, characters, or setting. Don’t just summarize the plot. You MIGHT want to use some of the starters below, but you do not have to. Just write!

**Response starters:**

* I really don’t understand this part...
* I really like/dislike this idea because...
* This character reminds me of somebody I know because...
* This character reminds me of myself because...
* This character is like (name of character) in (title of book) because...
* I think this setting is important because...
* This part is very realistic/unrealistic because....
* I think the relationship between \_\_\_\_\_\_and \_\_\_\_\_\_ is interesting because...
* I like/dislike (name of character) because...
* This situation reminds me of a similar situation in my own life. It happened when...
* The character I most admire is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ because...
* If I were (name of character) at this point, I would...

**Also consider:**

1. What you like or disliked and why

2. What you wish had happened

3. What you wish the author had included

4. Your opinion of the characters

5. What you felt as you read

6. What you noticed about how you read

7. Questions you have after reading

Final Project Ideas

While (or after) you read your chosen book, you must create a final project for your novel. Here are some suggested projects, but please feel free to be creative and come up with your own idea!

1. “Become” one of the characters. Write a selection of the story from his/her point of view. Tell an incident the way this character sees it. Include the thoughts and feelings of the character that may not be mentioned in the story.
2. Create a board game based on the characters, events, or theme of your book. Be sure that the game is playable and that participants must rely on their knowledge of the book in order to succeed!
3. Draw a detailed map of where your story took place. It should contain areas where significant events happened. Use a key to describe these happenings. Be certain to include a title and label the appropriate areas. Detail, color, and accuracy are points to remember.
4. Become a character and write a diary with at least 5 entries. Include events from the novel and how you feel about them. Write in the voice of the character (using his/her dialect, words, sayings).
5. A. Write a radio show version of one of the scenes in your story and record it on a cassette tape or c.d.. Include dialogue that mirrors that of the original story and add sound effects and/or music, if possible. You may ask a classmate or friends to help you in the radio show
6. Research and present information about a particular part of the story: a person, place, event, etc. Try to discover interesting background or facts not presented in the story. Your resources must be accurately cited. The presentation may take numerous forms: a speech, a poster, an essay, a pamphlet, etc.
7. Make a scrapbook about the story or pretend a character had made it about his/her life. This should look like a real scrapbook, complete with actual memorabilia, awards, letters, photos, mementos, ticket stubs, report cards, etc. Include the book title or the character’s name on the book. Label each item (at least fifteen) and explain its significance.

## Write a piece of music to fit a character, event, or feeling from the story. Explain how and why you created the piece. Be prepared to perform it (if requested) or record the performance and submit it.

## Act out and video tape at least three scenes from the book. The entire presentation should run about ten minutes. Submit a written copy of setting, dialogue, direction, etc. along with the videotape.

###### Photograph real people, places, and things that represent the same in your novel. Secure at least fifteen pictures in an “album.” The album’s front cover should list the name of the book and the author. For each photo, write a caption that labels the picture and explains how it is connected to the story.

1. Record a podcast that reviews the novel. Include the following: a) title and author, b) genre of the story, c) names of major characters, d) brief description of conflict(s), e) what you liked/disliked about the book, f) a recommendation for a specific audience.

Name:

Period:

Date:

Independent Reading Project Proposal

My book is called\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

It is written by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Propose a project! Use this space to describe IN DETAIL what your final project will be. You have lots of freedom to come up with something on your own, but feel free to use the suggested projects as a starting point.

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