

Book Project Options for English Language Arts

DESCRIPTION OF ASSIGNMENT



It's common knowledge that independent reading is necessary in order for young adults to: gain a wide vocabulary; learn conventions of good writing style, spelling and grammar; and develop reading strategies to increase reading comprehension levels. Beyond that though, reading independently prepares students for the self-discipline needed to succeed in college and to develop a life-long love of reading.

It is for these reasons that independent reading is a requirement for English class. The book projects assigned throughout the year are done with the intention of allowing students a creative outlet to display their talents while demonstrating what they have learned from their books.

REQUIREMENTS

Book Choice: students choose their books, but choices should be school-appropriate. Prior approval for all books is required before a project is turned in.

Length: all written projects are to be a minimum of 200-250 words.

Mechanics: Grammar and spelling always count.

Presentation: All projects should be neat, typed, and creative. These projects cannot be done at the last minute.

Format: This does NOT need to follow MLA, but it does need your name, class, teacher, title of your book, and author clearly written on your project.

Punctuality: Late projects lose one letter grade of credit for each day late.

Plagiarism: NO copying of ANY kind is tolerated. This includes using sentences, phrases and/or ideas taken from a website (SparkNotes, Wikipedia, etc) or other book summary/review. In short, ANY inclusion of thoughts or ideas that are not your own will result in: a zero on the project, a parent conference, and any further discipline required by the school Academic Dishonesty Policy. (I suggest you don't even LOOK online.)

Project Ideas



A Different Point of View

Rewrite the main story of your book from the point of view of a secondary character. For example, the story of Harry Potter could be told the eyes of Ron, or even Draco. Your retelling should highlight the major events of the story.

A Diary the Main Character Might Have Written

Imagine that you are the main character in your book. Write diary entries, from the first person point of view, that reflect what a main character was probably thinking/feeling at significant points in the book. The completed diary should span the entire novel. (At least 5-6 entries at 40-50 words each.)

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Personal Letter to the Character

You may write to the main character, or to a secondary character, as long as you are writing to a character that sparked some sort of an emotional response in you. Tell them why you love them, or why you despise them; discuss his/her decisions/actions and share your opinions. By reading this letter, I should have a clear understanding of the important events in your book and of the character to whom you are writing.



Movie Poster Advertisement

Make a movie poster for the book you are reading (this can only be for books which have NOT been made into movies already). On the poster should be an *original* summary of approximately 100-150 words; a brief biography of the author; graphics which represent important scenes and themes of the book; quotes, which capture key moments and phrases to grab our attention. Rate the “movie” version of your book, and be prepared to discuss your choice during your presentation. (**Students should not choose this as an “easy” project**; it requires thought and creativity and *will be graded critically*. You should be able to discuss your design with the class during your presentation.)

Read all about it



Rewrite the main events of your book as a news paper. Write 2-3 articles, which convey events in your book. Be sure to write like a reporter, using the third person point of view. Present your articles as a newspaper too; create an appropriate headline for a newspaper in the setting of your novel, include pictures and captions, make columns: be creative!

Portray a Character

Impersonate a character in your book. Prepare a presentation where you dress like a character in your book and act as if you were him/her (props and/or other visuals are expected too!) Tell the story from that character's point of view. This should be rehearsed and memorized, not read from a paper. (4-5 minutes in length, then be prepared to answer questions from the class and the teacher.)

Put it to lyrics!

Convert the major events of your novel into a ballad, song, rap or spoken word poem. If it is short in length, be prepared to discuss your work and your inspiration with the teacher and the class after your presentation.



Words vs. Images

Write a compare/contrast essay discussing how a book deviates or adheres to its filmed counterpart. Opinions on the treatment of key scenes in either or both works are also welcome. Conclude with it a judgment of the best version and reasons for your opinion.