

Honors English
3rd Quarter Independent Reading Project

For this project you will be reading 2 novels.

Read one Classic children's novel

Read one contemporary (written within the last 15 years) children's novel
(Children's novel means meant for a reading level of about 12 years old.)

For the classic novel, write an essay that explains why it is a classic.

For the contemporary novel, write an essay on the following topic:

We have discussed what makes a novel a classic. Do you think your novel will stand the test of time and become a classic?

Do a character sketch of the main character in each novel. It should include...

- appearance
- actions
- ideas (what the character thinks)
- manner (how the character acts)
- reactions of others to the character/relationships
- Why is s/he important in the novel?
- Would you like to be the main character? Why or why not?
- Would you like the main character for a friend? Give your reasons.
- Think about what the character was like at the beginning of the story. Write about how the character has changed by the end of the story. What events led up to the changes of the character?

Compare the personalities of the two characters. Are they similar or different? Do you think that your characters are products of their times? Would your classic character be believable in your contemporary novel? Would your contemporary character ever fit into the world of your classic novel?

All work should be typed in standard MLA format.

There should be no research for this project; all work should be your own analysis.

Your completed project is due on **March 2, 2010** at the beginning of class. It will not be accepted late.

English 4
3rd Quarter Independent Reading Project

Choose a contemporary novel (this means a novel written within the last 15 years). As always, your choice must be appropriate for your reading level.

After reading the novel complete all of the following elements.

- Create and answer 10 reading questions. I expect these to be in the style of the ones I give you for our class novels. They should be challenging and answered fully and completely.
- Think about some of the main themes and literary devices in the novel. If you had to teach this book, what do you think would be an important thing to highlight? Create a lecture on this topic; your lecture should include: an attention getter, clear explanation of the concepts you want to teach, the topics you think should be discussed, and how this lesson will be useful for something other than this specific novel. Make sure that you keep the focus on the novel and how it teaches something. You can write this in any format you want, as long as it is easy for me to read. Your lecture should be designed for a 40-minute class period.
- Write an essay on the following topic:
We have discussed what makes a novel a classic. Do you think your novel will stand the test of time and become a classic?

Do not use any questions or ideas from the Internet. I want this to be your own analysis. If you do use the Internet you will fail this project.

Please type all work in standard MLA format.

Your completed project is due on **February 24th**

English 3
3rd Quarter Independent Reading Project

Choose a contemporary novel (this means a novel written within the last 15 years). As always, your choice must be appropriate for your reading level.

After reading the novel complete all of the following elements.

Part 1--Choose an important character and write a sketch of that character which includes:

- appearance
- actions
- ideas (what the character thinks)
- manner (how the character acts)
- reactions of others to the character/relationships
- Why is s/he important in the novel?
- Would you like to be the main character? Why or why not?
- Would you like the main character for a friend? Give your reasons.
- Think about what the character was like at the beginning of the story. Write about how the character has changed by the end of the story. What events led up to the changes of the character?

Part 2--Discuss the theme of your novel. What message did you get from this book? Do you think that the author was successful in getting the message across? Why? Do you think that this message has value outside of the novel? If it does, where? If it doesn't, why not? Did the novel help you in any way? (DO NOT just answer each of these questions. Create a cohesive piece of writing that incorporates all these ideas.)

Part 3--Write an essay on the following topic: We have discussed what makes a novel a classic. Do you think your novel will stand the test of time and become a classic?

All work should be typed in standard MLA format.

There should be no research for this project; all work should be your own analysis.

Your completed project is due on **March 2, 2010** at the beginning of class. It will not be accepted late.

Independent Reading Project

English 2

Due: March 4, 2010

Choose a novel of at least 250 pages. It must be appropriate to your reading level! Read the novel and complete the following activities.

Activity #1--Plot

Write a short plot summary of your novel. This should be about 200 words. Include information such as where and when the story happens, who is telling the story and whether or not you enjoyed the plot and your reasons. What does the title have to do with the book?

Activity #2--Characterization

Choose an important character and write a sketch of the character which includes:

- appearance
- actions
- ideas (what the character thinks)
- manner (how the character acts)
- reactions of others to the character/relationships
- Why is s/he important in the novel?
- Would you like to be the main character? Why or why not?
- Would you like the main character for a friend? Give your reasons.

This character sketch should be about 1-2 pages. Make sure you are writing a coherent piece of work and not just answering the individual questions.

Activity #3--YOUR REACTION:

- What message did you get from this book? What was one of the major themes?
- Do you think that the author was successful in getting the message across? Why?
- Did the novel help you in any way?
- Good and bad points about your novel. Write a review of the novel and give good reasons as to why anyone should or should not read the novel. Include examples from your novel to support your review.

This section should also be written as a unified piece of writing that incorporates all these elements.

Activity #4—Final Project—Choose only one

1. Pretend you are a character in the book. Write diary entries as if you were the main character. There should be one entry for each chapter. Each entry should tell about what the main character has done, learned, and felt during that chapter.
2. Write an alternate (better?) ending for the novel.
3. Pretend that you have been chosen to write a sequel to this story. Write a brief summary of the sequel. Include information about the sequel's plot, setting and main characters.
4. Write a short story based upon the same theme, subject or characters as the novel that you read.
5. Interview one of the characters and then write out your interview. You might pretend that you are a writer for People magazine.
6. Write a newspaper story about what happened at the end or during a part of your novel. This will be a news story. Include a photo if you like.
7. Write an autobiography (life story) of one of the characters.
8. Compare and contrast your story with another you have read for class this year or last. Remember to include how the novels are alike and how they are different.

Ideas taken from:

<http://www.ed.uri.edu/mci/king/images/IndBkPrj.html>

<http://itls.saisd.net:8081/documents/NovelProjects2.pdf>