

## SUMMER READING PROJECT

These projects are designed to show that you have gained a thorough understanding of the novel (its characters, plots, & themes) without writing a book report or taking a test.

Your assignment is to complete a combination of the following projects (your choice) that will total 100 points.

### 75 Point Assignments

- Create a word and/or picture collage representing the entire novel (main characters, major events, turning point, etc.). This must be done on a large sheet of drawing paper or poster board (8" x 11" paper is too small). This must be accompanied by a 1 page written explanation of why you selected the certain words and/or pictures. This must be neat and aesthetically pleasing.
- Create a newspaper about the entire novel that includes such things as classified ads, obituaries, news items, sports articles, cartoons, etc.
- Create a board game in which the game pieces represent the characters and the board shows the plot sequence/main events of the entire novel. This must include rules and be "playable". You might want to consider games like Life, Monopoly, Clue, or Taboo.
- Re-write the entire novel in comic book form. You should remain true to any physical or setting descriptions.
- Make puppets, finger puppets or masks representing the main characters of the novel. Then, record yourself acting out the plot of the entire novel.
- Create several pieces of art about the novel. Be sure to include the major themes and characters. These should be accompanied by written pieces explaining them.
- Design and build a web page or site about your book; include a synopsis (don't give the ending away!), introductions to main characters, and other information and graphics/images to "sell" your book (e.g., convince others to read it)
- Create a picture book based on your novel. Use either photographs, magazine pictures, drawings/etc. to represent things that happened in your novel. Put them together in booklet form with a front and back cover. Portray at least 10 main scenes/events in the novel and use a written caption with each picture to explain what is happening. Picture book should tell the whole story (ending & all).

### 50 Point Assignments

- Create a Google Slide Presentation/Prezi. This should include a minimum of 15 slides, which have clipart, animations, & sounds. The following information must be included: title, author, main characters, minor characters, protagonist(s), antagonist(s), setting, conflict, 3 major events, conflict, & resolution.
- Keep a diary from a main character's point of view (your gender doesn't matter). This should include her/his thoughts & feelings, actions, and significant events from the entire novel. You should create at least 8 entries from your character
- Write a series of letters that 2 main characters in the novel might have written to one another during the course of the entire novel. You should have at least 4 letters from each character
- Select (from an outside source) or write 10 poems/songs that you feel say something about the theme, mood, characters or settings of the novel. Explain why you selected or wrote each poem/song.
- Write a new ending for the story, a new adventure for the main character, or the beginning of a sequel. The tone and format should be the same as the original novel. If

you get rid of old characters, then tell what happened to them; if you invent new characters, then describe them. This should be at least 2 chapters long.

- If the novel you read was made into a movie, then watch the movie. Write a 2 page essay comparing and contrasting the book and the movie. Why do you think they are different? Which one did you like best?
- Explain how you'd make your book into a movie. Write up a cast of characters & tell who would play each one. Where would you film it? What parts might you change/omit? Why? Be sure to explain all of your choices.
- Create a movie poster to go with the book you read. Select current actors and actresses to play major characters. On the back of the poster (or a separate sheet of paper), explain why you chose those particular actors and actresses for the parts.
- Write a letter to the author of the book you read that explains your views of the novel. You might want to explain what the book taught you, why the book was particularly special to you, what you liked/didn't like about it, or suggest ideas for a sequel. Or you could focus on something else you want to share with the author

### **25 Point Assignments**

- Design a coat of arms to represent one of the main characters of the story. Decorate in detail the coat of arms with symbols that represent the character's personality. On the back of the coat of arms, write a detailed paragraph for each symbol that gives your reasons for including each item. You should have one paragraph (5 sentences) per item! The coat of arms should be poster board size. This is worth 25 points, but you can make it worth 50 points if you do two characters and 75 points if you do three characters.
- Compile a list of 5 other novels that have similar themes. This must include a brief summary of each book (you may find these online, in magazines or book catalogs, at the library, etc.) and the name of the author. The summaries do not need to be written by you, but you must tell why you think the books are similar. It is not necessary that you read the 5 books, but you must be familiar with the basic storyline of each.
- Use the alphabet and for each letter write a word (noun, verb, adverb, adjective, verb) that represents something important about the book or its characters or theme etc.
- Make paper dolls of the main character(s). Research the types of clothing worn during the era (if the story is set in a different time period) or check for clothing descriptions in the book and make a wardrobe for them. The dolls and their garments should be true to the physical descriptions given in the book.
- Make a diorama in which you show the scene that you feel is the most significant in the story. This must be accompanied by 1 written page explaining why you selected this scene.
- Select a character from the book. Then select 10 quotations from the text that you feel reveals the character's personality. You must explain what each quotation/sentence tells you about the character. You must also tell which page the quotation/sentence came from.
- Select (from an outside source) or write 5 poems/songs that you feel one of the characters from your novel would either like to read or that relate to her/his life. Explain why you selected or wrote each poem/song.
- Story Bag: Put together a bag that contains at least 10 items that would be useful to or significant to a character in your novel. Include a description of each item and its relevance to the story.
- Select one of the characters in the novel and imagine what would happen if you brought her/him to your school or to your home for a day. You should consider things like: how would s/he fit it with the other students/family members; how might s/he react to the rules, teachers/parents, assignments/chores, etc.; how would s/he dress & how would people react to that; what might s/he find interesting? This may either be written from your point of view or from the character's point of view.

- Create a tri-fold brochure or pamphlet with drawings, pictures, and text that advertise or promote something in the novel. Also, you could create an advertisement for people who want to take a vacation to the place where the book is set
- Select a character from the novel and “interview” her/him. What kinds of things would you like to ask her/him & how would s/he respond? Write this up in an interview format.
- Make a “wanted” poster for one of the main characters. Give a physical description & picture, what s/he has done, what the reward is, and who to contact. Also indicate whether s/he is wanted dead or alive.
- Write a book review for the novel. Briefly outline the main characters, setting, plot, and theme. Also tell whether or not you would recommend this novel to someone your own age and specify who might enjoy it.
- Compare and contrast 2 of the main characters from the book. You may use a Venn diagram for this, but you must explain what makes the characters different from one another and how they are similar.
- Research the author of the novel. Tell where s/he is from, where s/he went to school, where s/he lives now, her/his family, etc. You should also include the names of other books that s/he has written, what awards/honors s/he has received. This must be in your own words.

### **15 Point Assignments**

- Draw a map of where the story takes place. Label all of the places that were important in the story. Write 1 page about how the places were used in the novel.
- Write an obituary or a eulogy for one character in the novel. Give all the pertinent information-- birthplace, schooling, accomplishments, career, etc. How do you think that person would want to be remembered?
- Have a character from your book endorse or sell a product (like a TV commercial). Tell what product it is and why people should buy it. Write a script for your commercial. The item you select should relate to the story.
- Find 10 recipes that relate to your story in some way. For example, if the story takes place in a particular region, then include recipes that tell what kinds of foods are served there. If the story deals with a certain time period or socio-economic group, then tell what kinds of foods would be served in that era or to that group of people. Put them all together like a cookbook and write a preface that explains how the recipes are related.

### **10 Point Assignments**

- Find and get copies of summaries of 5 other books written by the author of the novel that you just finished.
- List 15 interesting words from your novel. Tell why each word is interesting or significant.
- Make a crossword puzzle using words from your novel. Be sure to include character names, setting, and main ideas or terms from the book.
- Compare your novel with several TV shows that are similar. Describe the ways in which they are similar & the ways in which they are different.
- If the story is takes place in an actual city/town, research the setting. Where is located? Climate? Population? Main language & religion? Provide a map of the place & surrounding areas. How many miles is it from your home? Include a map showing how you'd travel to get there from where you live. Tell what mode of transportation you'd use to get there
- Create a resume, cover letter, and reference list for a main character in your novel. Use correct form for each of these items

**YOUR FINAL PROJECT WILL BE DUE BY THE END OF THE FIRST WEEK THAT WE RETURN TO SCHOOL.**