

Book Report Guidelines

You will have a book report due every month, on the last school day of each month.

- Please make sure that the books selected are chapter books with a minimum of one hundred and fifty (150) pages.
- Please follow the guidelines given for the written reports and projects, and turn them in on time. Late assignments will have 5 points deducted.
- Due dates are as follows: January 31, February 28, March 30, April 30
- Below are your choices. Select a genre from the first column and an activity from the second column. You may select a genre and activity only ONCE.

Genres	Activities
Newbery Award	Dust Jacket
Mystery	Project Cube
Nonfiction	Suitcase display
Adventure	Newspaper Page
Fantasy	Movie plan
Biography/ Autobiography	Board Game
Historical Fiction	Mobile
Poetry	Grocery Bag with artifacts
Science Fiction	Diorama
Realistic Fiction	Cartoon Strip

Every book report project must include the Book Report Form following these guidelines:

1. **Main Characters.** Who are the main characters in your story? Describe at least three people who make a difference in how the story evolves. It should be at least six lines long.
2. **Setting.** Describe the setting in detail. Describe how the setting changes the mood of the story. It should be about five lines in length.
3. **Theme.** In every book there is a moral to the story, or a lesson that the author wants you to learn. What is the theme of this book? Think about this. Sometimes it is very subtle. It should be one sentence long.
4. **Summary.** Write a ½ page summary of the book. Include the problem, but not the ending.
Example: This magical adventure is about a boy struggling to learn all he can while he solves life-changing mysteries. The main struggle is good against evil, and the boy has his friends and some of his teachers to help, but mainly is on his own. The setting, Hogwarts School, is extremely important to the development and understanding of the story, while adding to the sense of adventure and mystery. A lot of the events that happen here are impossible in the 'real' world, but the bonds shared between the main character and some of his friends, are very realistic. Read this book and you will be rooting for Harry to be victorious in his struggle against Voldemort, to save himself as well as the world.
5. **My Opinion.** What did you think of this book? Did you enjoy it or not? Why? Be specific in your reasons why you did or did not like the book. This should be about four lines long.

Book Report Project Choices

1. Dust Jacket

A dust jacket is the paper covering on a hardback book. It is designed to attract the attention of prospective readers and tell them something about the book. By looking at and reading a dust jacket you can find a lot of information about the book in a condensed format.

Materials: Paper, colored pencils or markers

Directions

1. As you read, write down words that describe the book or that tell your reaction to the book.
2. Fold a piece of construction paper in five sections so that there is a front inside flap, a front cover, a spine, a back cover and a back inside flap.
3. **Use a planning sheet to plan what you will put on all sections of the book jacket before you actually draw or write on the paper.**
4. This is what you will put in each section:
 - a. Inside flap- write a brief description of the book. Do not tell everything that happens in the book, but tell enough to get people interested in reading it (10 sentences minimum).
 - b. Front cover-write the title and the author's name. Get creative with it. Draw a picture that will get the reader's interest and show something about the contents of the book. You may use clipart, drawings or pictures from the internet, but they may not be a picture from the book. Get creative to design this cover!
 - c. Spine-write the book's title and publisher
 - d. Back cover-write your review and recommendation. Tell why you think this book is good. You may add an illustration. 10 sentence minimum.
 - e. Inside back flap- Include some brief information about the author. Also include other books that the author has written. You may need to do research to find this information. 5 sentence minimum.
 - f. Sketch it all out then transfer your drawings and writings to the book jacket. Include color... it must catch the reader's attention.

Criteria for Grading:

Requirements	4	3	2	1
Is all the information included in each section?	Includes all the requirements, and uses exemplary writing. Meets the minimum # sentences for all sections.	Includes all the requirements, and uses acceptable writing. Meets the minimum # sentences for all sections.	Includes most or all include all the requirements. The writing doesn't make sense. Doesn't meet the minimum # sentences for all sections.	Is lacking most or all requirements. The writing doesn't make sense. Doesn't meet the minimum # sentences for all sections.
Does it show that you understood the book?	It is very clear that you understood the book and can share that with others.	It is clear that you understood the book.	It is uncertain if you understood the book.	It is clear that you did not understand the book.
Will it make other people want to read the book?	You have really engaged the reader!	The reader will want to read this book.	It is uncertain if the reader will want to read the book.	The reader will not be interested in reading this book.
Is it neat, attractive and colorful?	Wow! You went above and beyond, using a variety of colors and designs, drawings and/or pictures to illustrate, and making your project very neat.	Your dust cover is neat and attractive. You used several colors to catch the eye, and included neat pictures/drawings	Your dust cover is not neat and the use of color is sparse. The drawings/pictures are too small and not neat.	Your dust cover is sloppy. The illustrations are too small or missing. You didn't use color.

2. Project Cube

A project cube is a way to visually present information about your book in a three-dimensional format. On the six sides of a cube you will put pictures and words that will tell other people about the book. It will not tell them the plot of the book, but it will be descriptive enough to interest them in reading the book themselves.

Materials: Construction paper or cardboard, scissors, glue, colored pens or markers

Directions

1. As you read your book, write down words that describe the mood of the book and the message you think the author is trying to get across to the reader.
2. Plan what you will put on the six sides of your cube. The cube must be at least 6"X6".
 - a. One: write the title and the author's name and write about the beginning of the book. Add a picture.
 - b. Two: write 5 adjectives about the book and two sentences about what you think the author wants us to learn from the book.
 - c. Three: draw a picture of the setting and describe it in 2-5 sentences.
 - d. Four: talk about the middle of the book (a short summary), explain the mood of the book, and draw a picture.
 - e. Five: write about how the book ended, explain the theme of the book, and draw a picture.
 - f. Six: explain what your favorite part of the book is and draw a picture of it.

Criteria for Grading:

Requirements	4	3	2	1
Does the cube tell about the book?	It clearly tells about the book, and uses exemplary writing. Meets the minimum # sentences for all sections.	It tells about the book, and uses acceptable writing. Meets the minimum # sentences for all sections.	Some parts are unclear. The writing doesn't make sense. Doesn't meet the minimum # sentences for all sections.	It is confusing or unclear what the book is about. The writing doesn't make sense. Doesn't meet the minimum # sentences for all sections.
Does it show an understanding of the plot, mood or theme of the book?	It is very clear that you understood the plot, mood, or theme of the book.	It is clear that you understood the plot, mood, or theme of the book.	It is uncertain if you understood the plot, mood, or theme of the book.	It is clear that you did not understand the plot, mood, or theme of the book.
Will it make other people want to read the book?	You have really engaged the reader!	The reader will want to read this book.	It is uncertain if the reader will want to read the book.	The reader will not be interested in reading this book.
Is it neat, attractive and colorful? Is it at least 6" X 6"?	Wow! You went above and beyond, using a variety of colors and designs, drawings and/or pictures to illustrate, and making your project very neat.	Your dust cover is neat and attractive. You used several colors to catch the eye, and included neat pictures/drawings	Your dust cover is not neat and the use of color is sparse. The drawings/pictures are too small and not neat.	Your dust cover is sloppy. The illustrations are too small or missing. You didn't use color.

3. Suitcase Display

Materials: sturdy media such as tag board, poster board or a manila folder, colored pencils, pictures (hand drawn, from magazines, or Clip Art)

1. Create a suitcase out of tag board or a manila folder or poster board.
2. Decorate the front of your suitcase with a picture of the cover of your book. Include the title, author and main characters. Describe each character using 2-5 sentences.
3. Inside your suitcase, draw or cut our pictures of at least 8 things that are representative of your book.
4. Using captions, describe the pictures and explain why they are important.
5. Make sure everything is done neatly, and that the pictures are large enough to see clearly.

Criteria for grading

Requirements	4	3	2	1
Is all the information included in each section?	Includes all the requirements, and uses exemplary writing. Meets the minimum # sentences for all sections.	Includes all the requirements, and uses acceptable writing. Meets the minimum # sentences for all sections.	Includes most or all include all the requirements. The writing doesn't make sense. Doesn't meet the minimum # sentences for all sections.	Is lacking most or all requirements. The writing doesn't make sense. Doesn't meet the minimum # sentences for all sections.
Does it show that you understood the book?	It is very clear that you understood the book and can share that with others.	It is clear that you understood the book.	It is uncertain if you understood the book.	It is clear that you did not understand the book.
Will it make other people want to read the book?	You have really engaged the reader!	The reader will want to read this book.	It is uncertain if the reader will want to read the book.	The reader will not be interested in reading this book.
Is it neat, attractive and colorful?	Wow! You went above and beyond, using a variety of colors and designs, drawings and/or pictures to illustrate, and making your project very neat.	Your dust cover is neat and attractive. You used several colors to catch the eye, and included neat pictures/drawings	Your dust cover is not neat and the use of color is sparse. The drawings/pictures are too small and not neat.	Your dust cover is sloppy. The illustrations are too small or missing. You didn't use color.

4. Newspaper Page

In this project you will produce an entire page of a newspaper. All articles, headlines and pictures will relate to the story you have read. In some articles you will be presenting the facts in the story and in others you will be putting on your thinking cap to present different aspects of the book in a creative format.

Materials: Large piece of paper, pencil and pens, ruler If you have access to a computer, you may use computer software instead.

Directions

As you read your book, keep notes about what happened and which events would make good newspaper articles. Plan your newspaper pages to include at least **four of the following six** things:

1. A headline and news article that tells about the climax of the book
2. A large picture that goes along with your headline story
3. A letter to an advice columnist about a personal problem on the characters had and a reply giving advice.
4. A book review in which you state your opinion of the story
5. An advertisement for the movie based on this book
6. An advertisement for a product or object that was featured in the book.

Write a rough draft of your articles. Make rough sketches of the drawings. Divide your paper into appropriate spaces, create a name for the paper and transfer your ideas to the paper.

Criteria for grading

Requirements	4	3	2	1
Does it contain quality writing?	Your writing shows excellent writing style and strategies for clearly communicating your message.	Your writing shows good writing style and strategies for clearly communicating your message.	Your writing lacks some skill in writing style and strategies for clearly communicating your message.	Your writing lacks writing style and strategies for clearly communicating your message.
Do the articles show original and creative thinking?	Your writing is very creative, descriptive and engages the audience.	Your writing is creative, descriptive and engages the audience.	Your writing is lacks some creative, descriptive and engaging factors to entertain the audience.	Your writing is lacks creativity, description and fails to engage the audience.
Will it make other people want to read the book?	You have really engaged the reader!	The reader will want to read this book.	It is uncertain if the reader will want to read the book.	The reader will not be interested in reading this book.
Is the grammar, punctuation and spelling correct?	Your grammar, punctuation and spelling has no errors.	Your grammar, punctuation and spelling has little or no errors.	Your grammar, punctuation and spelling has several errors.	Your grammar, punctuation and spelling has many errors..

5. Movie Plan

1. List the main characters from your book, 3 traits about each one, and name an actor to play each one. Use support from the story to back up your traits. Make a chart.
2. Your budget only has enough to afford to build 2 background sets. Which 2 settings are most important to your story, and why? Create a chart of this information.
3. As the producer of this movie, you are interested in people's opinion on what they thought the 'theme' was. Pick 4 famous people, and explain the theme from their point of view. Make this into a chart.
4. Include the title of the book and author on all pages.
5. Design a poster advertising your movie.

Criteria for grading

Requirements	4	3	2	1
Is all the information included in each section?	Includes all the requirements, and uses exemplary writing. Meets the minimum # sentences for all sections.	Includes all the requirements, and uses acceptable writing. Meets the minimum # sentences for all sections.	Includes most or all include all the requirements. The writing doesn't make sense. Doesn't meet the minimum # sentences for all sections.	Is lacking most or all requirements. The writing doesn't make sense. Doesn't meet the minimum # sentences for all sections.
Does it show that you understood the book?	It is very clear that you understood the book and can share that with others.	It is clear that you understood the book.	It is uncertain if you understood the book.	It is clear that you did not understand the book.
Will it make other people want to read the book?	You have really engaged the reader!	The reader will want to read this book.	It is uncertain if the reader will want to read the book.	The reader will not be interested in reading this book.
Is it neat, attractive and colorful?	Wow! You went above and beyond, using a variety of colors and designs, drawings and/or pictures to illustrate, and making your project very neat.	Your dust cover is neat and attractive. You used several colors to catch the eye, and included neat pictures/drawings	Your dust cover is not neat and the use of color is sparse. The drawings/pictures are too small and not neat.	Your dust cover is sloppy. The illustrations are too small or missing. You didn't use color.

6. Board Game

Materials: Tag board, markers, rulers, scissors

Choose your favorite board game. Cut out a square piece of tag board and create a board game using the same format as your favorite board game, except substitute characters and events from your book. You may use magazine clippings, Clip Art or whatever media is appropriate. You may be very creative and artistic!

Criteria for grading

Requirements	4	3	2	1
Does the game show original and creative thinking?	Your game is very creative, descriptive and engages the audience.	Your game is creative, descriptive and engages the audience.	Your game is lacks some creative, descriptive and engaging factors to entertain the audience.	Your game is lacks creativity, description and fails to engage the audience.
Does it show that you understood the book?	It is very clear that you understood the book and can share that with others.	It is clear that you understood the book.	It is uncertain if you understood the book.	It is clear that you did not understand the book.
Is it engaging and make the reader want to read the book?	You have really engaged the reader!	The reader will want to read this book.	It is uncertain if the reader will want to read the book.	The reader will not be interested in reading this book.
Is it neat, attractive and colorful?	Wow! You went above and beyond, using a variety of colors and designs, drawings and/or pictures to illustrate, and making your project very neat.	Your dust cover is neat and attractive. You used several colors to catch the eye, and included neat pictures/drawings	Your dust cover is not neat and the use of color is sparse. The drawings/pictures are too small and not neat.	Your dust cover is sloppy. The illustrations are too small or missing. You didn't use color.

7. Mobile

Materials: wire coat hanger, construction paper, glue, scissors, colored pencils or crayons. Clip art is optional.

Directions:

1. Make a wrap of construction paper to cover the hanger.
2. On the wrapped portion, include the title of the book, the author's name and your name.
3. Create five items that tell about events or important facts in the person's life. The items may be drawn by you, you may use Clip Art or they may be real items that are small and lightweight.
4. Attach the items to the bottom of the hanger with yarn or string of different lengths.
5. Put your title wrap over the hanger. NO TAPE!!
6. Be prepared to tell the class about the book using the objects in the mobile.

Criteria for grading

Requirements	4	3	2	1
Is all the information included in each section?	Includes all the requirements, and uses exemplary explanation.	Includes all the requirements, and uses acceptable explanation.	Includes most or all include all the requirements. The explanation doesn't make sense.	Is lacking most or all requirements. The explanation doesn't make sense.
Does it show that you understood the book?	It is very clear that you understood the book and can share that with others.	It is clear that you understood the book.	It is uncertain if you understood the book.	It is clear that you did not understand the book.
Will it make other people want to read the book?	You have really engaged the reader!	The reader will want to read this book.	It is uncertain if the reader will want to read the book.	The reader will not be interested in reading this book.
Is it neat, attractive and colorful?	Wow! You went above and beyond, using a variety of colors and designs, drawings and/or pictures to illustrate, and making your project very neat.	Your dust cover is neat and attractive. You used several colors to catch the eye, and included neat pictures/drawings	Your dust cover is not neat and the use of color is sparse. The drawings/pictures are too small and not neat.	Your dust cover is sloppy. The illustrations are too small or missing. You didn't use color.

8. Grocery Bag Book Report

1. Use a brown paper grocery bag.
2. On the bag glue pieces of paper that include the following information:
 - a. The title of the book
 - b. The author
 - c. Your name
 - d. A picture of a scene in the book
 - e. A picture of the main character(s)
3. INSIDE the bag include 5-8 **different objects** that will help you tell the class about the book.
4. Be prepared to tell the class about the book using the objects in the bag.

Criteria for grading

Requirements	4	3	2	1
Is all the information included in each section?	Includes all the requirements, and uses exemplary explanation.	Includes all the requirements, and uses acceptable explanation.	Includes most or all include all the requirements. The explanation doesn't make sense.	Is lacking most or all requirements. The explanation doesn't make sense.
Does it show that you understood the book?	It is very clear that you understood the book and can share that with others.	It is clear that you understood the book.	It is uncertain if you understood the book.	It is clear that you did not understand the book.
Did you fully explain the purpose of each of your objects to make the reader want to read the book?	You have really engaged the reader!	The reader will want to read this book.	It is uncertain if the reader will want to read the book.	The reader will not be interested in reading this book.
Is it neat, attractive and colorful?	Wow! You went above and beyond, using a variety of colors and designs, drawings and/or pictures to illustrate, and making your project very neat.	Your dust cover is neat and attractive. You used several colors to catch the eye, and included neat pictures/drawings	Your dust cover is not neat and the use of color is sparse. The drawings/pictures are too small and not neat.	Your dust cover is sloppy. The illustrations are too small or missing. You didn't use color.

9. Diorama

A diorama is a three dimensional scene that is made by placing objects or figures in front of a painted background. Usually it is contained in some kind of a box (shoeboxes are great). The diorama you will make in this project will show a scene from your book.

Materials

Shoe box, heavy paper or cardboard, scissors, glue, colored pencils or marking pens

****DO NOT USE TAPE**

Directions

- Select your favorite scene in your book. Make a backdrop for your diorama by either coloring a background on the back side of the box or by coloring a piece of white paper and gluing the paper on the back side of the box.
- Make objects and figures for the scene. When you cut out the objects, leave a small flap on the bottom that can be folded back and glued to the bottom of the box.
- Arrange all items and glue into place
- On an index card, briefly describe what is happening in this scene. Tell why it is your favorite scene or why you chose this scene. Attach this to the side of the diorama.

Criteria for grading:

Requirements	4	3	2	1
Does it accurately show the scene?	It clearly tells about the book, and uses exemplary creativity in color, items, and display.	It tells about the book, and uses acceptable creativity in color, items, and display	Some parts are unclear. Shows some creativity in color, items, and display.	It is confusing or unclear what the book is about. Shows little or no creativity in color, items, and display.
Is the diorama neat and attractive and creative?	Wow! You went above and beyond, using a variety of colors and designs, drawings and/or pictures to illustrate, and making your project very neat.	Your dust cover is neat and attractive. You used several colors to catch the eye, and included neat pictures/drawings	Your dust cover is not neat and the use of color is sparse. The drawings/pictures are too small and not neat.	Your dust cover is sloppy. The illustrations are too small or missing. You didn't use color.
Is the description accurate?	Your description is extremely creative and descriptive. The audience can clearly understand the scene.	Your description is descriptive. The audience can understand the scene.	Your description is not really clear and needs more creativity and description. The audience struggles to understand the scene.	Your description is does not describe the scene. The audience cannot understand the scene.
Will it make other people want to read the book?	You have really engaged the reader!	The reader will want to read this book.	It is uncertain if the reader will want to read the book.	The reader will not be interested in reading this book.

10. Cartoon Strips

Materials: blank paper, crayons or colored pencils, scissors, glue and construction paper.

1. Select an event in the book that you have read to illustrate your comic strip.
2. The strip will need to be **six to ten cells**.
3. Above your comic strip, make a title line to include the title of the book, the author's name and your name.
4. When you are finished, mount the comic strip on a piece of construction paper with glue. (NO TAPE.)
5. You may do this activity by hand or you may use desktop publishing software.

Criteria for grading:

Requirements	4	3	2	1
Is all the information included in each section?	Includes all the requirements, and uses exemplary explanation.	Includes all the requirements, and uses acceptable explanation.	Includes most or all include all the requirements. The explanation doesn't make sense.	Is lacking most or all requirements. The explanation doesn't make sense.
Does it accurately show the event?	It clearly tells about the book, and uses exemplary creativity in color, items, and display.	It tells about the book, and uses acceptable creativity in color, items, and display	Some parts are unclear. Shows some creativity in color, items, and display.	It is confusing or unclear what the book is about. Shows little or no creativity in color, items, and display.
Is the comic strip neat and attractive and creative?	Wow! You went above and beyond, using a variety of colors and designs, drawings and/or pictures to illustrate, and making your project very neat.	Your project is neat and attractive. You used several colors to catch the eye, and included neat pictures/drawings	Your project is not neat and the use of color is sparse. The drawings/pictures are too small and not neat.	Your dust cover is sloppy. The illustrations are too small or missing. You didn't use color.
Will it make other people want to read the book?	You have really engaged the reader!	The reader will want to read this book.	It is uncertain if the reader will want to read the book.	The reader will not be interested in reading this book.