

Book Club

This trimester we are recycling an assignment, which was prompted by an unnamed individual who complained that he was tired of taking meticulous notes on each book that we've read. In the past, 8th grade students have chosen a book from a provided list, written chapter by chapter summaries of each book and completed papers on their novel. Instead this trimester, you will be choosing a book to read with your fellow "Book Club" members.

Each Book Club is responsible for the following:

1. Choosing a book to read and gaining instructor approval for that book.
2. Ensuring that each member of the group has a copy of your chosen book.
3. Creating and following a reading schedule that fits your book. All books must be in class by Tuesday, April 11th and completely read by Thursday, May 11th.
4. Completion of a group presentation project on your chosen book. Presentations will take place on Friday, May 19th.

Each individual in the Book Club is responsible for the following:

1. Reading the book!
2. Participating in group discussions.
3. Leading between two and four book club meetings.
4. Identifying plot, characters, themes, setting, and literary devices used by the author of your book.
5. Keeping a reader response section of your composition book with ten entries.
6. Write a five paragraph essay in class on your novel during the "Book Club Final" on May 22nd and 23rd.

Expectations for Leading a Discussion

At each Book Club Meeting, all members should have completed the assigned reading per your group's schedule. Each group member must lead at least two Book Club meetings. As the Book Club leader for the meeting, it is your responsibility to keep the discussion alive. It is also your responsibility to track participation and to help others who are having difficulty with the book (so make sure you understand what you've read for that day!).

Requirements for leading the Book Club meeting include:

1. Identify at least two literary devices used in your chapters.
2. Discuss plot development from your chapters.
3. Answer any questions asked by your Book Club members.
4. Explain any pertinent developments with the setting, themes, characterization, etc...
5. Have at least seven discussion questions prepared to be discussed by your group.

The day you are leading your group's discussion, be prepared to show your notes on these things to me! You are graded for leading the discussion! In order to earn full credit, your discussion must last a minimum of twenty minutes.

Book Club: The Group Project

This is the only grade that your book club will be given as a group. On Friday, May 19th each group will present a project on their book to the class. This project is intended to be a creative assignment, and a presentation grade (homework category of the grade scale) will be given to the group as a whole, based on the following criteria: *participation* (Did every group member participate in all stages of the project?); *presentation dynamics* (Did members of the group pay attention to volume, eye contact, vocal expression, etc. in their performances?); *content* (Did the presentation provide a compelling synopsis of the book— without giving away the ending?); *originality* (Did the group members use a creative and engaging presentation style to tell about their book?)

The Book Clubs have several options for their presentations, including:

Option One: News Report

For this presentation, the group will present the novel as if the events from the story are actually taking place. Group members may act as newscasters, characters from the novel, interviewers, etc... Reporters may also appear “Live” on the scene to commentate as events from the novel unfold.

Option Two: Skit

For this presentation, the group members will write and perform a brief skit from their book. Any group choosing this option should choose a scene from the book that does not give away too much of the story (e.g. please do not act out the final scene of the novel). Props and “scenery” may be used to enhance a live performance. Participants should have their lines memorized.

Option Three: A Talk Show

For this presentation, a host or co-hosts will interview characters from the book, asking about their experiences and development over the course of the story. The “author” may also be interviewed. If your group chooses this option a “confrontation” scene between characters or the author and one or more of the characters may be scripted.

Option Four: A Movie Trailer

For this presentation, the group will film a video as if their book has been made into a movie. The trailer should highlight important moments and key scenes from the book. Please only choose this option if you have the technical expertise required and understand how you will show the film to the class.

Other things to know...

- Each presentation should be between five and ten minutes.
- Regardless of which option you choose, if your group has the resources and would prefer to film the presentation, a video (that includes all group members) may be shown rather than giving a live presentation.
- If your group has an alternative suggestion (a presentation idea other than what is listed above), you may seek instructor approval for a different type of creative presentation.