

## Independent Reading Projects



Reading is a vital way to learn information, and it can be a source of enjoyment. In addition to reading together in class, I would like you to do some independent reading. Ideally, I would love for you to be able to do a great deal of reading, but I know that life keeps all of us busy, and sometimes we cannot always fit in as much as we would like. Try to fit in a little daily.

The reading for your project should be at your ability level, and you should choose various genre. What is genre? Genre is the category that the book falls under: biography/ autobiography, historical fiction, fantasy, nonfiction, drama, science fiction, realistic fiction, mystery, etc... **Challenge yourself to read a different genre each quarter.**

Each quarter, you will present a book in a different way. Quarter 1 will be an oral presentation. For example, you might dress up as a character and tell "your" story. You could choose to present with Google Slides behind you to illustrate your talk. Unpack a suitcase or treasure box and describe the objects inside as they relate to the story. Give a book talk or put on a puppet show. The options are as varied as your imagination.

Quarter 2 will be a written project — but not a standard “book report” or book summary. Create a mini newspaper, writing articles about the major events of the story. Become one of the characters and write a series of journal entries that hit the high points. Become an interviewer and construct questions to ask one of the characters; then have the character answer them. Write a letter to the author or to one of the characters.

Quarter 3 will focus on technology. A Google Slides presentation, a live TV/radio report of a breaking event from the novel followed by backstory, a movie short, book trailer, or an animated cartoon are just a few of the options. (Before you spend a great deal of time on a project, please run it by me.)

Quarter 4 is your choice. Pick any presentation method that you did not already complete earlier in the year. Presentation options are limitless as long as they show **effort and creativity** as well as **demonstrate knowledge and understanding** of the book.

Projects are due approximately one week before the end of the quarter. Please ask questions if you have them and do not wait until the last minute to complete this assignment. Stay on top of your reading so that you have time to put your project together. Enjoy reading and then share those great books with your classmates.

# Basic Independent Book Project Guidelines

## Objective:

Show **understanding** of a novel you have been independently reading in an **interesting and creative** way —not a standard book report or summary. (Always pretend the teacher and class know nothing about the book.)

## Keys Elements to ALL Projects:

Effort/ creativity/ thought is evident.

Book Title

Author

Main characters

Main plot points/ conflict

Conclusion (unless presenting to the class)

What you liked, didn't like, and/or learned from the novel

## Key Elements to an Oral Presentation:

Eye contact with the audience

Voice that is easy to hear and understand

Enthusiasm for the book

Rehearsed and organized but not a robotic

Relaxed and confident body language

Visual aid (if used) should be VISUAL (example - **big** images and captions — not paragraphs to read).

## Key Elements to a Written Project:

**Do NOT go online to look for thoughts/ideas.**

Neat appearance

Organized thoughts

Well-written paragraphs

Lack of spelling, punctuation, grammar errors

Detailed information presented to show understanding

(Information must go **beyond** what one might see in a book summary.)

Quotes/references are cited to support claims/ thoughts.

## Key Elements to a Technology-based Project:

Technology is used to create and/or present the novel: Google Slides, iMovie, video, digital camera, etc.

Student has the capability to get the project into the classroom: USB drive, email, photo album, etc.

Well-planned and executed project

Heart of the novel is highlighted.

Technology enhances the presentation.