Independent Book Project

For this project, you will read a book on your own over the course of the third quarter.

The book you select is up to you, HOWEVER, you must select a book that is not only generally age appropriate, but is also appropriate for your personal reading level. You must have your book approved by me. If you want to check the recommended reading level for a book, go to the website **www.commonsensemedia.org** and look it up.The recommended age should show up in a green circle under the information about the book. Make sure you are looking at the book and not a movie version or other version of it!

Written component: Every student is responsible for completing a written review. This should state your opinion about the book, whether or not you recommend it for other readers, and two examples from the book that support your opinion. It should be about 250 words long.

Creative component: Choose a creative project from the list or come up with your own (have it approved by me)

Choose your book ASAP, but NO LATER than **Friday, February 13th.**

**Due Dates:**

**Friday, March 6th:** Finish reading your book by this date. Also, complete the Quotable Moments Checklist and Reading Log.

**Thursday, March 19th:** FINAL PROJECT DUE. ALL WORK DUE: Project, written review, reading log, and Quotable Moments.

**Friday, March 20th:** Gallery Walk - put your project on display!

**IBP - Options!**

**In the News** Create a newspaper that tells about events and characters in your book. The newspaper page or pages might include weather reports, an editorial or editorial cartoon, ads, etc. The title of the newspaper should be something appropriate to the book. The front page should look as much like a real newspaper as possible with writing in columns, headlines, a newspaper title, etc. You can include a variety of different kinds of features including horoscopes for each character, "Dear Abby" letters, comic strips, news articles, advertisements, personal ads, an obituary section, or anything else you might find in a newspaper. Everything you include; however, must be based on events and characters in the book you read.

**Travel Agent** Prepare a travel brochure for the main town or city in which your book takes place. Take a piece of letter-sized paper and fold it into thirds length-wise. Design a cover for the travel brochure, with the name of your book's town or city. A travel brochure is meant to entice potential travelers to visit the place being advertised, so highlight the different attractions and sights of the town/city. Use pictures you have found or drawn to add color and interest to your brochure. Try to use the setting of your novel to explore other aspects of the story (like characterization, plot, themes, symbols, etc.)

**Script It** Write a movie script for your own version of your favorite scene in the book or make your own scenario using the characters. At the top of the script, assign real-life TV or movie stars to play each role (or people you know) and write a brief description of why you chose each one. Try to make your script original, and make sure it shows your knowledge of how the characters would act in certain situations. Use the plot and themes of the book to make the script interesting. The more knowledge and thought you show about the novel, the better!

**Annotated Collage** Do a collage on poster board or other large paper showing pictures or 3-D items that relate to the book, and then write a couple of sentences beside at least 10 pictures detailing their significance. Use newspaper and magazine pictures to decorate your collage, as well as any other photos or 3-D materials you have access to. The collage should be made of found pictures and objects. The poster board should be completely covered. Please use the collage to explore big ideas, themes, characters, personal connections, etc.

**Sculpt It** Create a sculpture of a character. Use any combination of soap, wood, clay, sticks, wire, stones, old toy pieces, or any other object. This is a sculpted piece, and not a drawing, so be sure to use tactile objects and materials to sculpt your character. Also, make sure your sculpture is big enough for observers to see the details of the character's face (Are the eyes, ears, nose, and mouth discernable?). Choose objects that you think represent the character and themes in the story in some way. Write a paragraph-long Artist Statement to accompany your piece; in it, describe why you chose the objects you used, why you depicted the character this way, and other connections you want to make to the character and project. This should be at least 300 words long and should show that you have thought carefully about your choices. It should clearly express your knowledge of the character and/or themes in the novel as much as possible.

**Scrapbook** Create a scrapbook for one of the main characters that reflects the many events that occur to him or her in the novel you read. You can include photographs, letters, post cards, telegrams, a family tree, newspaper article clippings, memorable items, or anything else you can think of that you might find in a scrapbook. If you include objects or photographs, be sure to write captions below describing what they are or what's going on and their significance to the character. Create a nice cover for your scrapbook. Captions should show knowledge of the plot, themes, characters, etc. in the novel.

**Map** If the book you read involves a number of locations within a town, country, or geographical area, create a map. This will be similar to the map you made of your neighborhood. First, make a list of all the locations - houses, stores, streets, parks, lakes, etc. mentioned in your book's setting. Then, draw the map showing a bird's eye view of the area. Label each location. Below the map, create a legend with a list of all the locations and a description of important events that occur at each. Make sure your map has lots of details, is colorful, and large enough to be seen clearly.

**Timeline** Brainstorm a list of all the major events in the plot from beginning to end and then organize them. Create a time line using a long strip of butcher paper. On your time line, write a short description of what happens for each event and, if possible, try to identify the time of each event with dates, seasons, etc. Add pictures and symbols to make your time line colorful. Include at least 8 events on your timeline. Make sure it shows more than just your knowledge of the plot, but some deeper thinking about themes, characters, etc.

**Character Trait Diagrams** Create a Venn diagram to illustrate similarities and differences in the traits of two of the main characters in your book. Then, create a Venn diagram comparing a main character in the book to someone you know. Finally, create a third Venn diagram comparing yourself to a main character in the book. Include at least 5 items for each part of each Venn diagram (15 each). Write a paragraph of commentary for each one that explores themes, characterization, etc. to the best of your ability. Present them on a nice, colorful poster or large paper.

**Sell It!** Pretend to be a publicist for your novel. Write and then deliver a 60-second speech that will persuade other students that they should read the book. Writing and speaking persuasively will be especially difficult if you didn't like the book. If that's the case, share that fact *after* completing the speech. Create a visual aid to accompany the piece. Knowledge of plot, themes, etc. should be clear.

**Interview a Character** Compose eight to ten questions to ask a main character in your novel. Write the character's response to each question. The questions and answers should provide information that shows you read the book, but also expands on not just the plot, but the themes, setting, characters, etc. in depth. Each response should be about a paragraph long.

**Create a Comic Book or Graphic Novel**  Turn your book, or part of it, into a comic book, complete with comic-style illustrations and dialogue bubbles. Don't forget to include all the major plot points, themes, settings, etc. from your novel or the section you chose.

**Movie Trailer** Turn your novel into a movie! What would a movie trailer look like for this novel? Show the major plot points, and even ruin the end if you want! Try to show how some of the themes are explored, and try to create an accurate setting. Work with partners, but make sure you're each contributing to the project.