

BOOK REPORTS

During the year you will be completing 8 book reports due approximately every month. These will be about books that you will read on your own, not ones that we read in class or ones that you have read in the past.

You may choose any combination of the following genres:

- * Award winning books or Golden Sower nominees from the Intermediate list.
- * Biographies, one may be an autobiography. You may want to read about the life of a saint.
- * "Classics" such as previous Newberry winner. Check with Mrs. Pfeister or me if you have a question. If one of your parents, grandparents or other adult in your life says to you "Oh, I loved that book when I was your age!" it is probably a classic.
- * nonfiction book
- * free choice

*******Please ask me to look at your book before you begin reading*******

The purpose is to read a variety of books including ones that will challenge you. Explore both the school and public libraries to choose your books.

The following is a list of ways you will be able to choose from to present your report to the class:

Book Reports, Book Jacket, Book Talks and Poster summaries reports MUST be typed. Use a 12 point font (except on the book jacket summary), black ink and include a full heading before typing your summary.

1) **Book Report**-You may choose not to present at all and briefly tell what you liked and/ or didn't like about the book you read. A complete book report consists of 5 complete paragraphs. **You must have an introductory paragraph and a conclusion paragraph consisting of at least 4-6 sentences. The body of your report must have 3 paragraphs as well.** A typed bibliography must be included at the end of your report.

2) **Book Jacket**- Create a cover for the book. Make it attractive by using your own illustration on the front. On the back write a brief summary of the book- a summary is 2-3 paragraphs. Present your jacket to the class. Please adjust the report to landscape setting on the computer in a 10pt font. A typed bibliography must be included at the end of your report.

3) **Book Talk**- Read a short selection (1pg maximum) to the class to encourage other students to read the book also. In addition to reading to the class, a full 5 paragraph report must be turned in for a grade as well. A typed bibliography must be included at the end of your report.

4) **Poster**- Create an advertisement using illustrations to sell your book. Include a summary (2-3 paragraphs). A typed bibliography must be included at the end of your report. All reports will be presented to the class for full credit.

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At the end of all reports (book report, book jacket, book talk or poster), you will need to include the typed bibliographic information about the book. This includes the author, title, date published, who and where published. It will look like this:

Grahame, K. **Wind in the Willows.** **New York:** **Charles Scribner's Sons,** **1933.**
(author) (title) (place) (company) (date published)

This information can be found on the title page of most books. If you are having trouble finding it see me or another adult. We can usually find it for you.

The idea is for you to read good books, and a variety of them, be able to write a summary of what you have read, and to decide what is good and not so good about a book. It is OK to not like a book, but you must have specific reasons what you like or dislike a book.

HOW TO WRITE A BOOK REPORT:

Book reports are a way to think more deeply about a book you've read and to demonstrate your understanding.

Introduction: Here you can provide basic information about the book. You can include: title and author, characters and setting, provide the point of view (who tells the story), and a 1-2 sentence introduction to the book. The introduction should be make up 1 paragraph.

Body

Here you can provide an explanation of what the book is about. You can briefly take us "through" the book, the highs and the lows, the problems and the solutions. A good place to start is to explain the author's purpose and/or the main themes of the book. Then you can summarize. The body should be made up of 3 paragraphs.

For fiction: Give a concise plot summary. Along with the sequence of major events, you may want to discuss the book's climax and resolution. But, be careful not to give away important plot details or the ending.

For non-fiction: Provide a general overview of the author's topic, main points, and argument. What are the important conclusions?

Don't try to summarize each chapter or every angle. Choose the ones that are most significant and interesting to you.

You can answer some of these questions:

- * Is the writing effective, powerful, difficult, beautiful?
- * What are the strengths and weaknesses of the book?
- * Do you agree with the author's arguments and conclusions?

Conclusion: Briefly conclude by pulling your thoughts together. You may want to say what impression the book left you with, or emphasize what you want your reader to know about it. Express your likes or dislikes about the book. What is your overall response to the book? Did you find it interesting, moving, dull? Would you recommend it to others? Why or why not?

Bibliography:

ALL book reports must have a bibliography at the end of your report.