

INDEPENDENT READING ACTIVITIES and DUE DATES

For each book you read, choose one of the activities below to show what you've learned, understood and thought about the book. You must read at least four books and complete at least three activities with a commentary (analysis—uploaded to turnin.com) for each by the due dates listed below:

Required:

(These assignments may be turned in early, but not late. Along with each activity, complete a short commentary—explained below—and upload it to turnitin.com by the due date.)

Independent Reading Book 1, Activity and Commentary due March 14

Independent Reading Book 2, Activity and Commentary due April 18

Independent Reading Book 3, Activity and Commentary due May 23

Reading Log of all reading done during the semester due by May 29

Extension Credit:

(You may go beyond the above three and earn extension (extra) credit. However, no more than 1 extra item may be turned in during the last two weeks of school.) So you can turn complete: Independent Reading Book, Activity and Commentary 4, 5, 6, 7, 8...

Activities:

Choose a different activity from the list below for each of the books you read. The activities are reflective of different learning styles and several focus on high-order tasks as required by Common Core State Standards. Each one should represent at least four hours of thought, planning, creating, revising/editing. You may receive extra points for more effort and creativity.

1. Imagine that you have been given the task of conducting a tour of the town in which the book you read is set. Write a video script or create a PowerPoint describing the homes of your characters and the places where important events in the book took place. Be creative!
2. Make a timeline of the major events in the book you read. Be sure the divisions on the timeline reflect the time period in the plot. Use drawings, words or magazine cutouts to illustrate events along the timeline.
3. Create a mandala with many levels to connect different aspects of the book, its historical time, and culture.
4. Create a cartoon summary of the events of the book on one side. On the back or attached, analyze the importance of what happened and the reasons each event occurred.
5. Imagine that the book you are reading has been challenged by a special interest group (see teacher for ideas). Write a letter defending the book, using specific evidence from the book to support your ideas.
6. Choose an important character from the book, draw an empty head and inside of it. Draw symbols, words, or images that are bouncing around in the mind of the character of a story.
7. Write/draw a biographical sketch of one character from the book. Fill in what you don't find in the text using your own imagination. This could be in the form of a file on the character (police report, FBI file, for example).
8. Using the Internet, research what information is contained in a passport. Create a passport that belongs to one of the characters of your book. Be sure that the passport contains all of the information found on an authentic passport. Add 'stamps' in the passport to show places this person has been.
9. Make a "wanted" poster for one of the characters or objects in your book. Include the following: (a) a drawing or cut out picture of the character or object, (b) a physical description of the character or

object, (c) the character's or object's misdeeds (or deeds?), (d) other information about the character or object which is important, (e) the reward offered for the capture of the character or object.

10. Create a sculpture of a character, a setting or an important object from the book. Use any combination of soap, wood, clay, sticks, wire, stone, old toy pieces, or any other object to create your sculpture.
11. Design a T-shirt (front & back) or a poster that promotes your book and write a jingle (a little song) to sell it.
12. Write a script of a scene or scenes from your book. Add details like stage directions or imagine who might play the roles.
13. Film a scene or scenes from your novel. Be creative and remember, setting, costumes, props, stage direction...
14. Find five websites a character in your book would most frequently visit. Include the websites and an explanation of why your character would choose these sites.
15. Design an advertising campaign to promote the sale of the book you read. This could include print advertisements for magazines or newspaper, radio spots, a TV commercial, a bumper sticker, even a button.
16. Imagine that you are the author of the book you just read. Suddenly the book becomes a best seller. Write a letter to a movie producer to convince that person to make your book into a movie. Explain why the story, characters, conflicts, etc., would make a good film. Suggest a filming location and the actors to play the various roles. You may only use books that have not already been made into movies for this one.
17. Construct a diorama (three-dimensional scene which includes models of people, building, plants, and animals) of one of the main events of the book.
18. Draw a portrait (just face) or a picture of the main character, or several characters, or a significant scene(s) from the book. Do not copy from existing images that are associated with this book (the cover or a movie, for example).
19. Create a music video, podcast, Youtube video, etc about your book. You could talk/rap/sing/dance about why you liked it, why it was good/not, choose scene from it, talk about symbolism, imagery, etc. in it...
20. Write a character diary, with at least eight journal entries as if you are the main character in the story. Write down events that happened during the story and reflect on how they affected the character and why. (This wouldn't really work if the book is already in this form. You could also do this telling the story from another character's point of view, however.
21. Write a poem about one of the characters or a scene. This should be a minimum of 10 lines. You could also do a series of poems.
22. Write or draw another beginning and ending for the book.
23. Write a one page "pitch" to a producer explaining why the story would or would not make a great movie. Do not do this if the movie already exists!
24. Identify the character's main problem in the story. Write to explain how you would have responded if you were in the same situation.
25. Create a board game, with instructions and rules, the book you have read and play the game with

family or friends.

26. Write an advice column (Dear Abby) and give the characters in the story advice on how to handle their problems/dilemmas.
27. Create a collage/poster with images reflecting the characters, settings, events, themes, symbols...from the book.
28. Write about a cause and effect relationship you found in the book.
29. As a literary agent, write a letter to the publishing company designed to persuade them to publish this book.
30. Create a playlist (back in the day we'd call it a mixed tape) for one of the characters or for a scene.
31. Create a Top Ten List in which you write and illustrate events and ideas you have learned from the book.
32. You are the reporter. Write a front page news story or a report live from one of the scenes in the novel.
33. After reading the book, write your own test. The test may be a combination of matching, multiple choice, true/false, short answer, and essay questions.
34. Write a song/rap about a character, a scene, the entire book...and sing it for the class. You could also just write it too...
35. Make a mobile representing different aspects of your novel: setting, characters, plot events, themes, symbols...
36. Another idea not listed here...check with me first!

Hints:

- Do not attempt a project requiring artistic or musical ability if you have none.
- If you make use images, make sure the pictures are appropriate for the time/place of the novel.
- Do not create a poster (or project) the size of Los Angeles and then paste 3 pictures on it.
- Do not create a mobile that is mostly hanger.
- If you make video, have a set, costumes, script, don't just giggle through the whole thing.
- If you write a song, don't make it a heavy metal, death skull song with a shrieking guitar solo that lasts for years...make sure you have a copy of the lyrics...make the song appropriate for the book.
- If you choose poetry and the poem is short, include several.
- Avoid: Leggos, Barbie or other dolls, dirt, live creatures, plastic binders, huge heavy items, glass or extremely breakable items which will fall apart before you even turn them in.

Grading:

- **Please refer to the rubric to see how your work will be graded.**
- **I like to be surprised, entertained, intrigued, amazed. I like to see depth of thought, time, creative energy, experimentation. I like crafty things, not mass-produced items. I like individuality.**
- **For each activity, you will write a commentary about what you made and why, including details about what your work shows about what you learned, understood and thought about the book you read. This commentary should be uploaded to turnitin.com by the due dates listed above. This component is especially important and explains the time and thought you put into your work and is not included in the four or more hours which the activity took you to complete.**