8th Grade Independent Reading Requirement

Mrs. Foley

An effective way to continue to improve anything is to practice, practice, practice! You will be required to read at least 8 books on your own this year. That breaks down to 2 books per marking period (approximately 5 weeks per book). Pace yourself. Obviously, you can read as many as you’d like!!!! ☺

Here is what you’ll do:

1. Choose a book.

* 1. at least 150 pages in length – see us if it is shorter
  2. fiction or non-fiction
  3. 6th grade reading level or above – check with a librarian or us
  4. may be from the Reading Olympics book list

1. Read the book & as you do, complete responses to the book (Due on assigned Fridays – 5 per marking period).

* You may choose from:
  1. A connection
  2. A drawing
  3. A venn diagram
  4. A summary
  5. Vocabulary identification
  6. A journal response
  7. A memory chain (Hold off on this one until we practice one in class.)
* Each response is worth 15 points.

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Some notes about the assignment:

\* You need to turn in a response each assigned Friday.

\* **It is recommended that all work be done in pen or typed** . ***If work is illegible, it will be returned to be re-done and resubmitted THE NEXT DAY.*** If it is not submitted the next day, it will not be accepted and will receive a zero. (For Illustrations, drawings should be done in crayon or colored pencil ~ writing component should be done in pen.)

\* You may work ahead and turn work in early; however, keep in mind the quality of your

work and the point value assigned. Early work may be placed in the basket on the

counter assigned to your class. ONLY WORK COMPETED EARLY OR ON-TIME IS TO

BE PLACED IN THIS BASKET. WORK HANDED IN LATE DUE TO ABSENCE **IS TO**

**BE PLACED IN MY HANDS!!!**

\* ***Responses will be done at different points in the book as you read. Each***

***response should NOT be based on the same part of the book.***

\* Need a book suggestion? – See us, a librarian or another student!

\* Read a top-notch book? – Add your title and author to our class list!

\* You may “Abandon” a book if you start it and don’t like it; however you

must give it 25 – 30 pages first.

\* When you get your responses back, scored, - place them into your reading

folder and record it on your reading log.

Reading Response Cover Sheet

Please place one of these cover sheets on each response before submitting it.

Score - \_\_\_\_\_\_\_/15 Name - \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

English class period - 1 2 4 5 7

Marking period – 1 2 3 4 Response for MP - 1 2 3 4 5

I am reading \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

(Book title)

Written by: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

(Author’s name)

This response is based on my reading from page \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ through page\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

I am responding with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

(please indicate response choice)

*Score*

Your response will receive:

* 15 -14 points if it includes:
  + clear and thorough details from the book
  + follows all directions for the selected task
  + shows extensive thought and personal input
  + shows regular progress through the plot of the book
* 13 - 12 points if it includes:
  + adequate details from the book
  + follows most directions for the task
  + shows adequate thought and personal input
  + shows some progress through the plot of the book
* 11 - 9 points if it includes:
  + few details from the book
  + little attention to all parts of the directions.
  + vague thought and personal input
  + shows little progress through the plot of the book
* 8 - 5 points if it includes:
  + unclear details from the book
  + no attention to the directions for the task
  + no through or personal input
  + ideas repeated from previous parts of the plot
* Below 5 points will require the student to meet with the teacher

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| --- | --- | --- |
| ***Connections***  If a character or something they say or do reminds you of something, write about it. Sometimes characters or situations remind us of people we know or saw or of things we’ve experienced. Explain your connection in about 100 words or so. The required length indicates that the connection should be **SPECIFIC and should include a story/detailed reason behind the connection**. As always, reread your response and STAR it with at least 5 genuine revisions in another color pen. | ***Summary***  In about 100 words, summarize a portion of the reading. Be sure to address only main points. **Remember what the job of a summary is.** Put us into the plot accurately but avoid getting hung up in the minute details. Imagine you are trying to explain 20-50 pages to someone in only 100 words. As always, reread your summary and STAR it with at least 5 genuine revisions in another color pen | ***Drawings***  Using color and sufficient detail, draw something from the reading. It can be:   * a **scene** (including characters, setting, and a conflict) * a **significant object** (drawn in context of its significance to the plot) * a **character** (again in context of the setting)   It may even be an impression of something. Artistic talent isn’t necessary but details are. Details must be accompanied by a 50 word explanation. |
| ***Venn Diagram***  Draw a venn diagram.  Choose 2 characters, conflicts, situations, etc. which can be compared and contrasted in this portion of the book. List those points of comparison and contrast (5 for each part of the diagram) **in complete sentences**.Observations need to extend beyond the obvious (i.e. one has brown hair and one has blonde hair). Examine their **personalities.** Try to make your reader understand just what makes them different ~ yet the same **as people.** | ***Journal Response***  Write a letter, diary entry, etc to a character either from the point of view of another character or from you as a reader about some conflict in the book. Use details in your account. Bring the conflicts to life in your account. Write about 100 words. As always, reread your journal and STAR it with at least 5 genuine revisions in another color pen | ***Word Finder***  \* Choose 5 words from a portion of the book that were new, unusual, funny, etc. to you.  \* Write the sentence in which you found them from context.  \* Define each ***in your own words*** from context.  \* Write a dictionary definition. |
|  | ***Memory Chain Example***  Susie (from chapter 3)  My sister  The time we went roller skating and broke my arm  No swimming that summer  Summer trips to the beach  I hate fishing | ***Memory Chain***  Begin with a character, item or place from the book. Create a 2 minute memory chain branching from that character, item or place. Then, look at your chain & see where a story develops. Write about it for 5-7 minutes and make adjustments in another color. |