

## **Grades 4 and 5 Independent Reading Program**

Students have the option of choosing their own books for the Independent Reading Program. Students are expected to read two books of their own choosing each trimester. Books must be appropriate for grade level.

The three main components of the Independent Reading Program are: book logs, summaries, and book presentations.

*The first book log is due on Monday, September 19, 2011.*

### **Book logs**

Students should read for twenty minutes a night, three nights a week, and summarize what they read each night by writing at least two sentences. They should also make a connection to the text by writing about one of the following:

- "At this point in the book, I predict \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_."
- "So far, this book/character/situation reminds me of \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_"
- "If I were this character, I'd \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_."

Connections should be of high quality. A connection which states: "The character in this story reminds me of the boy from Hatchet because he had to learn new ways to survive in the world and became a stronger person for it," is going to earn a considerably higher grade than one which states: "This book reminds me of me because I'm in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade, too."

The connection is a crucial part of both book logs and Reader's Responses. Although it is a smaller part of the overall project, it reflects an engagement with the text and higher-level thinking skills. *Students who do not do a connection for their book logs or Reader's Responses will receive a grade of 50% for the assignment.*

## **Reader's Responses**

Once you have finished reading a book, write a Reader's Response, which is a summary of what was read, as well as a connection to the text. Students have until the Friday of the week they have finished the book to turn in a summary. For example, if a book is finished on Friday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, a student doesn't need to turn in a book log for that Monday, but they must turn in their summary for the book by Friday, September 25<sup>th</sup>. Summaries count as a test grade, so be sure to have them in on time to avoid losing points!

A summary is a paraphrasing of the important details of the book. (We will be discussing paraphrasing in upcoming classes to ensure that expectations are clear.) While the summary should be written in paragraph form, be sure to include who, what, when, where, how and why in your details. As it is a paraphrase, it shouldn't run more than one and a half pages long.

After you have finished summarizing the book, make a connection similar to the one you make each week on your book log. You may choose from making a prediction, giving your opinion on what a character should do, or a comparison. Make sure that you explain your reasoning as well.

Be sure to proofread before turning in your summaries, as neatness, spelling, and grammar count towards your grade.

## **Book Presentations**

Students are assigned one book presentation, based on either book they read, per trimester. Their 5-minute presentation should include a basic synopsis of the book (without giving away the ending, please! ;) ) and a project based on their book to share with the class.

Options for the book presentation include:

- A storyboard
- A skit (This must be written out to be handed in, and then acted out. Retell the story in a different time, place, etc. with friends.)
- A Power Point presentation (PowerPoint must have a minimum of 5 slides, and detail the characters, plot, setting, and main conflict.

- A mixed CD (The CD should have songs on it which represent the characters, plot, setting, and main conflict. There should also be a written component explaining the choices.)
- A poem (Poem should synopsise story without giving away the ending, and detail the characters, plot, setting, and main conflict with a minimum of 8 lines.)
- Students may also dress as a character from their book and give a presentation from their point of view. They should have a partner prepare with them to make interview questions, which the character can then answer.

If a student has a different idea for their book presentation project, please meet with the teacher ahead of time to confirm. There will be a signup for book presentations as the trimester progresses.

Remember: Book logs count as quizzes, and summaries and book presentations count as tests. Be sure to do your work neatly and carefully, and turn it in on time to get the best possible grade. Remember, as booklogs are supposed to track reading on a weekly basis, *booklogs more than one day late cannot be made up!*

I am looking forward to seeing all of your great ideas and hard work!