

*Quarterly Book Report Outline*  
*Language Arts*  
*Mr. Crawford*

**Introduction**

The Eighth Grade Book Report is the academic equivalent of deep-sea diving: one must indeed dive deep into the book in search of its hidden wonders. Of course, one must have the right equipment to undertake such a journey. Part of these tools will include the methods of comprehension, writing style, and textual analysis that the students are introduced to the first week of Language Arts, and developed throughout the year.

In pursuit of this goal the report is designed to take into account three aspects of the student's reading experience: **1) a written report; 2) a visual element; and 3) an oral description of the project.**

**Written Section**

This is the main part of the report. It will include the following:

1. Title page:
  - a. Title of the Book and Author
  - b. Subtitle including your book report title, and your name
  - c. Some visual of an event from the novel
  
2. Table of Contents: including the following items and corresponding page number:
  - a. **Summary**
  - b. **Character Analysis**
  - c. **Theme Analysis**
  - d. **Conclusion and Recommendation**
  - e. **Appendix**

**Summary** (One page): In your own words, summarize the novel, including separate paragraphs with the main points from the beginning, middle, and end. Please include a comment on the author's writing style.

**Character Analysis** (Two pages): Choose one main character (protagonist or antagonist) and describe them, what problems they encountered, what decisions they made in response to the problems, and the relationships they developed. Include your insights into how the character changed over the course of the book.

**Theme Analysis** (One Page): Choose a central theme that plays throughout the book: here are some suggestions: identity, relationships, self-discovery, transformation, overcoming difficulty, learning through suffering, bravery, honor, hope, endurance, friendship, love, etc.

**Conclusion and Recommendation** (half a page): Please conclude your report and offer a recommendation that is backed up with reasons why you would or would not recommend the book to another reader. Make connections to your own life and describe how that made elements of the novel interesting to you.

**Appendix:** Drawing (One page) Please provide an original drawing of a character or key event in the book as you visualized it when you were reading.

## Visual Component

Unlike the written section, which is very structured, the visual portion of the report is very open-ended to maximize your creativity. You may choose from one of the following categories:

1. **Collage**: use a poster board to create an display of images related to the book;
2. **Painting**: use water colors, oils, etc. to illustrate one aspect of the book;
3. **Mobile**: design a suspended floating apparatus that visually describes the book;
4. **Timeline**: create a visual chronology of the book;
5. **Sculpture**: use plaster, clay, or soap stone, etc.
6. **Graphic novel**: version of one chapter in the novel;
7. **Dress up as a character**: speak in a dialect of the book, if possible;
8. **PowerPoint** (7 slide minimum, and a 15 slide maximum);  
*Note: students may choose to work on their PwrPt on school laptops @ lunch...*
9. **Act out a scene**: record the scene, or chapter, with props and costumes.

**Note: Each visual project must be approved before it may be started.**

## Oral Section

You will have *three minutes to five minutes* to present your visual part of your book report. We will have plenty of opportunity to go over any questions you may have about the report, including how to present it, some skills to develop in the meantime, and the opportunity to practice those skills and speaking in front of others. By the second week of school many of you are already speaking with confidence anyway. Think of the oral report as an extension of what you are already doing in class.

Additionally, please know that I am always available to give suggestions. Ultimately, you must do your own work.

## Book List

The following is a list of books that students should choose from. The list will get larger as the year progresses. For the **first book report only**, I am allowing students to bring in a book outside the list if it gets approved by me. In the list there are a combination of classics as well as modern novels that represent a wide variety of styles and interests.

*Lord of the Flies*  
*1984*

*Any Shakespeare Play*  
*Kidnapped*

*I Know Why the Caged*  
*Bird Sings*

*Around the World in 80*  
*Days*

*The River*

*The Pearl*

*My Life in Dog Years*

*The Hound of the*  
*Baskervilles*

*The Guns of the South*  
*Confederates in the Attic*

*The Road*

*The Great Gatsby*

*Jane Eyre*

*The Jungle*

*Tuck Everlasting*

*The Lord of the Rings*

*Any Narnia Book*

*Little Women*

*The Killer Angels*

*Cry, the Beloved Country*

*The Secret Life of Bees*

*The Andromeda Strain*

*Huckleberry Finn...*

And the list is growing!