

# Quarter Book Reports

## Mr. Longnecker's Class

Once every quarter you will be asked to complete a book report. The report is an important part of your overall grade and will consist of three components. You will be graded on the written report, the project, and your presentation. This paper is a detailed guide of what I am looking for, it needs to be used as a checklist before turning your report in.

### Written Report

This section consists of a three page write up covering the following areas of the book. Each section must be a minimum of one full page either typed or written in pen (no pencil). If you type the report you should use the standard size 12 font and double space your work. All sections are also graded on spelling and grammar, so make sure that you edit your paper, spell-check is not enough. Get your paper edited by a family member, classmate, or friend before you turn it in. The sections are:

**Cover Page** – This page must contain: your name, the quarter, the name of the book, the author's name, and a hand drawn illustration depicting a scene from the book. Replications of the original cover of the book will result in a score of zero on this section.

**Summary** – In this section you will write a three paragraph summary of the book, including details from the beginning, middle, and end. Make sure to include only the main details (events that lead to other main events). A summary should be short and concise; therefore this section should not exceed two pages.

**Response to Literature Essay** – In this section you will write a five paragraph essay in which you identify and analyze only one of the reoccurring themes in the book. A story's theme is its central message or insight into life. Sometimes the theme is stated directly, but many times the theme is implied in the story. Some examples of common themes are: the value of bravery, loyalty, friendship, believing in yourself, honesty, teamwork, love, the effect of loneliness, etc. Describe what you believe is one of the main themes of the book. Make sure to provide evidence through the use of quotes (make sure to include page numbers) that demonstrate your selected theme. Make sure to explain why the quotes you used are connected to the theme you selected.

Paragraph One – Introduction (include the following)

- \* A hook that grabs the reader's attention
- \* A clearly stated theme
- \* A thesis statement (explained in class)

Paragraph Two – Support Paragraph (include the following)

- \* A detailed description of the theme
- \* A quote from the book that supports your selected theme
- \* A sentence that ties in your quote with the theme

Paragraph Three – Support Paragraph (include the following)

- \* More supporting details that support your chosen theme
- \* Another quote from the book that supports your theme
- \* A sentence that ties in your quote with your theme

Paragraph Four – Personal Connection (include the following)

- \* In this paragraph will connect the theme or message in the story to your own life. What can we learn from the theme? How can the lessons the character(s) in your book learned be applied to everyday life.

Paragraph Five – Conclusion (include the following)

- \* Restate what you selected as your theme.
- \* Highlight the support you provided in your essay.
- \* Conclude with a sentence that wraps things up nicely.

## **Creative Portion**

In this portion of the report you get to show your creative ability. For this section of the report you are to choose one of the following types of projects to complete. Please do not repeat the same type of project every quarter. It is important to spend a good amount of time on this portion of the project it has equal value to your written report. You are responsible for getting the supplies you need well ahead of time before the due date. If you wait till the last minute, we will all notice, and your grade will suffer. Remember to do your personal best and submit a project that you are proud of.

**Project Choices – (choose only one)** (alternate options available if teacher approved)

**Poster** – Make sure that you list the name of the author, the title of the book and include an illustration that relates to the story. The poster must be done on a large poster board, no exceptions. While it is acceptable to use a computer for the wording on the poster, it is not acceptable to use images from a computer; they must be hand-drawn. Posters are expected to be done in full color. If you leave a bunch of white spaces, your poster will appear unfinished.

**T-Shirt** – Create and design a T-Shirt displaying your book. The requirements for the shirt project are the same as the poster; however instead of using a poster board, you use a plain white shirt instead (front and sleeves required, back optional). Make sure to bring your project on a hanger if you select this one so we can properly display it in the classroom.

**Photo Album** – Design a photo album or scrapbook based on your book. Make sure to include a cover that lists the story name, and author. In the photo album you need to draw and include at least six scenes from the story with brief descriptions of what is going on in them, or letters from characters in the story, etc. All photos must be hand drawn original work, no computer printouts will be accepted.

**Collage** – Create a collage for your book using a variety of materials. Remember to include the name of your book and author on your collage. You may include materials using photographs from magazines, computer images, hand drawn pictures, photographs you take yourself, etc. If you choose this option you must also include a typed page describing how each item in the collage connects to your story. This page will be displayed next to your collage so that everyone will know how the items you selected relate to the story.

## **Oral Presentation**

The presentation is nothing to freak out about. They are short two minute presentations where you will be showing off your creative project and telling the class the following things. The name of the book, the author, a brief plot description, your favorite part of the story, your favorite character or characters in the story, how you made your creative portion and how it relates to your book, and finally you will give a recommendation on whether or not you think your classmates should read it too.

## **Grading**

### Written Report (60%)

- Title page – 10%
- Summary – 25%
- Response to Lit – 25%

### Creative Portion (30%)

- Relativity to Book – 10%
- Creativity – 10%
- Visual Effort – 10%

### Presentation (10%)

- Delivery – 5%
- Time Management – 5%

All reports are expected to be turned in on the due date. The MWCS policy for late work on projects is 20% grade reduction per day late (for a further description see the student handbook in your planner). That's two letter grades every day it is late. That being said, make sure you use your time wisely. If you plan it out and make a completion plan you will be fine, if you wait until the last minute, you will stress yourself out and your project will suffer, so make sure to pace yourself.

## 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Book List 2009 – 2010

Each quarter you must choose one book from the following list. The list is split up between three levels, basic, intermediate, and advanced. It is important that you choose a book that fits your ability level. This year you will be required to choose from the list for the first three quarters. For the fourth and final book report you may choose from the list or read an appropriate book of your choice (must be **teacher approved** before you start reading). Students who choose books from the advanced lists are eligible for earning extra points on their reports. If a report is done on a book that is not on the list, it will not receive any credit.

### **Basic**

Maniac Magee- Jerry Spinelli  
Push Cart Wars – Jean Merrill  
Jason’s Gold – Will Hobbs  
Rascal – Sterling North  
Freak the Mighty – Rodman Philbrick  
Whittington – Alan Armstrong  
A Dog’s Life – Ann Martin

### **Intermediate**

Call of the Wild – Jack London  
Bud Not Buddy – Christopher Paul Curtis  
Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry – Mildred D. Taylor  
Where the Red Fern Grows – Wilson Rawls  
Stargirl – Jerry Spinelli  
Things Not Seen – Andrew Clements  
Pobby and Dingan – Ben Rice  
The Higher Power of Lucky – Susan Patron

### **Advanced**

Uglies – Scott Westerfield  
Animal Farm – George Orwell  
To Kill a Mockingbird – Harper Lee  
Lord of the Flies – William Golding  
A Wizard of Earthsea – Ursula K. LeGuin  
The Chocolate War – Robert Cormier  
The Wave – Todd Strasser  
Fever 1793 – Laurie Halse Anderson  
Jeremy Fink and the Meaning of Life – Wendy Mass  
The Face on the Milk Carton – Caroline Cooney  
The Westing Game – Ellen Raskin  
Walk Two Moons – Sharon Creech