

Grade 6 Realistic Fiction Book Project

Please choose a book you have not read. You may use a book you already have at home, a book from RGS library, or a book from either county library.

If you type your paper, please follow the formatting directions here:

<http://gs.riverdale.k12.or.us/~bblack/format3.htm> Here are the basics on typing: Double space (explained below), use 12 point size, and use a font that looks exactly like the font I used for these directions (Times New Roman). Do not use a font that looks like the font this sentence is in.

Double spaced (anything typed is always double spaced, no matter which draft it is) means you put one blank line between lines of text. For example, this paragraph about double spacing is double spaced. It's called double spaced because in the olden days we used non-electric machines called "type writers" and one had to hit the "return" key twice to put that one blank line in. Calling it "double spaced" is confusing because it makes you think you need two blank lines between text, but really it means only one blank line. Set your word processor to "double space" automatically and you don't even have to hit enter—you just keep typing and the program automatically starts over at the end of a line, double spaced. Note: do not add an extra blank line between paragraphs when typing.

Note: your paper needs a clever, creative title, but do not use the title of the book in your title. Also, the title of your paper does not go in bold, italics, underlining, or all capital letters. When you write the title of the book you read in your paper, italicize the book title. Please put your name, date, and period number in the upper left hand corner of your project.

There are two due dates for this assignment. The first is a "check-in" where I will make sure you are on the right track. It is not mandatory nor is it graded. The more you have completed on this day the better it will be for you. **Check-in date: Wednesday, October 2; Final due date: Friday, October 4.**

What to do:

Section 1 Retelling

Name the book and the author. Explain who the main character is, what problem (conflict) is being solved, and what the character does to solve the problem. You will need to discuss what happens in the entire book, especially the ending. Remember to italicize the book title when you mention it in your paper, but do not put your title in bold (or italics or underline...) Your retelling will be about 500-750 words long, and remember to use lots of paragraphs.

Section 2 Making Connections

You will explain connections you can make to the book. Remember our discussion about this important reading strategy. Making connections helps develop your background knowledge, which greatly improves your comprehension. (And don't forget to plan your writing with a web. You might do two: one for the retelling of the book and one for the connections. You don't have to turn the webs in.)

Spend the next few paragraphs (about 500-750 words total) explaining what connections you made to the book. **Remember this key phrase: This reminds me of...** Put each connection in a separate paragraph and *explain* how you relate. Pick an example from the book, and go ahead and be heavy handed about explaining how it relates to your connection.

You will probably have more text to self connections than text to text connections. You might not have many text to world connections. It doesn't matter how many of each connection you have; you could have all text to self connections. It's not necessary to tell me what type of connection each one is, but you can if you'd like.

Remember to relate all your experiences and what you know not only to any of the characters in the book but also to the locations and actions. **Make your connections meaningful.** If a character has an uncle and you have an uncle, that's not a meaningful connection. What will make your connections **meaningful** is to explain how the connection helps you understand the book, the characters, or what the characters are going through.

For each connection, choose an example from the book and your life, then explain how the connection helps you understand the book better and/or how it helps you relate (understand the feelings of the characters) to the characters and experiences in the book.

How to explain: Don't just re-tell...explain. That is the difference between simply re-telling what happens and letting me know what your level of understanding is. Use lots of details and examples when describing what the characters do and how they feel. Tell me about the characters. Tell me what they do and tell me why they do what they do. Give specific examples and explain how they go with what you said about the characters. After you tell me something, start a new sentence with the following phrases: "This is because..." "The reason for this is..." "This is important because..." "This means..." Using those phrases mean you are explaining. **You will need to use these "explanation phrases" five times in your project and place a * next to each one.**

Grade 6 Realistic Fiction Project Check List

Do not turn this in. Use this to check that you completed the assignment correctly. This also shows the grading criteria.

For the retelling:

_____ I named the author and the title of the book. I put the title of the book in italics or I underlined it. I gave my project a clever/creative title that did not include the title of the book. _____/3

_____ I described and named the main character. I wrote “The problem is “ and then I finished the sentence by explaining what the problem¹ is. At the end I wrote “The problem was solved” and then I finished the sentence by explaining how the problem was solved. I explained the important aspects of the entire book, including the end. _____/5

_____ To help explain (rather than just re-tell), I used one of the helpful phrases at least five times in my writing. I drew a star (*) next to each one. (These are found at the end of the project directions.) _____/5

For the connections:

_____ Each connection is in a separate paragraph. I used examples from the book and my life that show and help explain. _____/3

_____ Each connection is meaningful. Each connection is explained thoroughly. _____/4

For the entire project:

_____ I used many paragraphs and all are indented. I checked my grammar, punctuation, and spelling. If I hand wrote my essay it's single spaced in very neat cursive with dark punctuation, indented paragraphs, and a blank line between paragraphs. If I typed it, it's double spaced with each paragraph indented, and it's in the correct font. _____/5

Total Points _____/25

¹How do you find out what the problem is? Ask yourself what the character wants, and ask yourself who or what is keeping the mean character from getting it. That's the problem.