

Middle School Summer Reading – 5th- 8th grades



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Option #1: Letter to the Author

Assignment Overview

You will be writing a letter to the author of the book. Tell him/her three things you really liked about the story. Ask three questions about the plot, characters, or anything else you're curious about. It should be at least three paragraphs long.

Remember your letter needs to be handwritten, not typed. Use the following rubric to help you:

Criteria	3 - Exceeds Standard	2 - Meets Standard	1 - Approaches Standard
Content	Identifies and thoroughly explains 3 things liked about the story. Asks 3 thoughtful questions about the plot, characters, or other aspects of the story.	Identifies and explains 2-3 things liked about the story. Asks 2-3 relevant questions about the story.	Identifies and explains 1 or fewer things liked about the story. Asks 1 or fewer questions about the story.
Organization	Letter is organized into 3 or more well-developed paragraphs with a clear introduction, body, and conclusion. Transitions between ideas are smooth.	Letter is organized into 3 paragraphs with an introduction, body, and conclusion. Transitions between ideas are present.	Letter is not organized into 3 paragraphs or lacks a clear introduction, body, and conclusion. Transitions between ideas are weak or missing.
Language Use	Writing is clear, concise, and engaging. Appropriate vocabulary and sentence structure for 6th grade. No significant grammar or spelling errors.	Writing is clear and appropriate for 6th grade. May have minor grammar or spelling errors.	Writing is unclear or includes many grammar and spelling errors, making it difficult to understand.



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Option #2: Diary Entries

Assignment Overview

For this project, you will write five diary entries from the perspective of a character in the novel you read. Each diary entry should be two paragraphs long. This is your chance to step into the shoes of your chosen character and express their thoughts, feelings, and experiences as if you were them!

What to Include in Your Diary Entries

1. Understanding of Your Character

- Show that you really know your character. Think about what they are feeling, what they are thinking, and why they are doing what they do in the story.
- Write as if you are the character. How would they speak? What words would they use?

2. Creativity and Originality

- Be creative! Make your diary entries interesting and fun to read.
- Try to include some new ideas or details that aren't in the book but could realistically be part of your character's life.

3. Adherence to the Novel's Plot and Events

- Make sure your diary entries match what happens in the book.
- Mention important events from the story and how your character feels about them.

4. Writing Quality and Mechanics

- Use good grammar, punctuation, and spelling.
- Write clearly so that your ideas are easy to understand.

5. Organization and Structure

- Each diary entry should have a clear beginning, middle, and end.
- Organize your thoughts so that your diary entry makes sense and is easy to follow.

6. Engagement and Effort

- Put effort into your writing. Make it clear that you've spent time thinking about your character and their story.
- Show your interest in the project through your writing.



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Example Diary Entry Structure

Imagine you are Lucy Pevensie after discovering Narnia for the first time.

Diary Entry Example:

May 1

Today was the most extraordinary day of my life! I stumbled into a magical world called Narnia through the wardrobe in the spare room. It was so unexpected! One minute I was hiding in the wardrobe, and the next, I was standing in a snowy forest. I met a faun named Mr. Tumnus. He was kind and invited me to his cave for tea. He told me all about Narnia and the White Witch, who makes it always winter but never Christmas. I can't believe such a place exists just beyond an old wardrobe.

Mr. Tumnus seemed sad and scared of the White Witch. He admitted he was supposed to turn me in but decided to help me instead. I felt both relieved and worried. How could someone so kind be forced to do something so awful? I promised to return, but when I got back to the Professor's house, my siblings didn't believe me. They think I made it all up! I must find a way to prove that Narnia is real. I can't wait to go back and explore more. There's so much to discover!

Remember, this is your chance to be creative and really get into the mind of your character. Have fun with it and show how well you understand the story and the person you're writing as. Good luck!

Submission Guidelines

- Type or neatly write your diary entries.
- Make sure each entry is two paragraphs long.
- Submit your work [digitally/printed] by the due date.

If you have any questions, feel free to ask!

Scoring Summary

- Understanding of Character: _____ / 20
- Creativity and Originality: _____ / 20
- Adherence to Novel's Plot and Events: _____ / 20
- Writing Quality and Mechanics: _____ / 20
- Organization and Structure: _____ / 20
- Engagement and Effort: _____ / 10

Total Score: _____ / 110



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Option #3: One-Pager Assignment: Novel Study

Assignment Overview

For this project, you will create a one-pager that captures the essence of the novel you have read. A one-pager is a single-page response to your reading that showcases your understanding of the book through both text and visuals. This is your chance to be creative and demonstrate your comprehension of the novel in an engaging way.

Example Layout for Your One-Pager

- **Title, Author, Genre:** Place this at the top of your page.
- **Summary:** Write a brief summary in one section.
- **Main Characters:** List and describe the main characters in another section.
- **Theme:** Write the theme in a complete sentence and place it prominently.
- **Setting:** Include a drawing or a written description of the setting.
- **Visual Elements:** Add drawings, colors, or other visual elements to make your one-pager attractive and engaging.
- **Use of Space:** Make sure there are no blank spaces. Fill the entire page with text, colors, or graphics.

Tips for Success

- Plan your layout before you start working on your final version.
- Be creative and make your one-pager visually appealing.
- Double-check for grammar and spelling errors.
- Make sure all required elements are included.
- Use the entire page and avoid leaving any blank spaces. Fill in all areas with relevant content and visuals.

Submission Guidelines

- Complete your one-pager on a standard-sized sheet of paper (8.5" x 11").
- Submit your one-pager by the due date in class or digitally if specified.

If you have any questions or need help, feel free to ask! See Rubric below



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One-Pager Rubric Summer Reading Project

Category	20 Points	10 Points	0 Points
Effort and Overall Attractiveness	The project is aesthetically pleasing, with clear effort shown. The entire page is filled with colors, text, and graphics.	Some effort is shown, but the project may not be as neat or organized. Some blank spaces may be present.	Little effort is evident. The project appears rushed, and there are significant blank spaces.
Summary	The summary is clear and concise, accurately capturing the main events and important details of the novel.	The summary is partially understandable and may miss key details or events.	There is no summary on the project.
Main Character(s)	Main characters are listed and well-described, including personalities, roles, and traits.	Main characters are listed but not described.	Main characters are not included in the project.
Theme	The theme is written in a complete sentence and clearly expressed.	The theme is listed but only as a phrase.	There is no theme included in the project.
Setting	The setting is both drawn and described, providing a clear picture of where and when the story takes place.	The setting is listed but lacks a written description or picture.	The setting is not included in the project.
Grammar and Spelling	There are 0-5 minor errors that do not distract from the content.	There are 6-9 grammar or spelling mistakes.	There are more than 10 grammar or spelling mistakes.
Title, Author, and Genre	The title, author, and genre are all included on the project.	One of the required elements (title, author, or genre) is missing.	Two or more of the required elements are missing.

Scoring Summary

- Effort and Overall Attractiveness: _____ / 20
- Summary: _____ / 20
- Main Character(s): _____ / 20
- Theme: _____ / 20
- Setting: _____ / 20
- Grammar and Spelling: _____ / 20
- Title, Author, and Genre: _____ / 20

Total Score: _____ / 140



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Option #4: Podcast

Assignment Overview

You will be creating a podcast on a book of your choice. The instructions are:

1. There will be a minimum of two people in the podcast. You will be taking turns asking and answering questions.
2. You will be asking or answering questions on the book. Think about questions that came to your mind while you were reading the book. You could explore topics and or themes in the story.
3. It should be between 3 and 5 minutes long. It should not be longer than 5 minutes.
4. Use the following rubrics to help you.

PODCAST RUBRIC

Category	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
Format	Introduction omits identification of speaker(s) and the purpose is unclear.	Introduction alludes to identification of speaker(s) and provides a vague purpose.	Introduction states speaker(s), describes topic, and engages the listener.	Introduction is catchy and clever, provides relevant information, and establishes a clear purpose that engages the listener immediately.
	No conclusion is provided.	Conclusion vaguely summarizes key information.	Conclusion summarizes information.	Conclusion clearly summarizes key information.
	The format structure is unclear and the audience cannot follow along.	The format structure seems unclear at times.	The format structure and topic discussion sequence are easy to follow.	The format structure and topic discussion sequence is effective, interesting, and engaging.
Main Content	Discussion is inappropriate to the topic and minimally engages the listener.	Discussion is somewhat engaging (covers a well-known topic), and provides a vague purpose.	Discussion is engaging and informative.	Discussion is engaging, informative, insightful, and encourages the audience to explore the content further.
	Does not stay on topic.	Occasionally strays from topic.	Stays on topic.	Keeps focus on topic.
	No external resources (audio excerpts, quotes, facts) included.	Somewhat irrelevant external resources.	Effective inclusion of external resources.	External resources were varied, thoughtful, and enhanced content.
Delivery	Delivery is hesitant and choppy. Sounds like the presenter is reading.	Appears unrehearsed with uneven delivery.	Rehearsed, smooth delivery.	Well rehearsed, smooth delivery in a conversational style.
	Enunciation of spoken word is distant, muddled and not clear. Expression and rhythm are distracting throughout.	Enunciation, expression, rhythm are sometimes distracting.	Enunciation, expression, and pacing are effective throughout.	Highly effective enunciation and presenter's speech is clear and intelligible. Expression and rhythm engage the listener.
	Poor grammar is used throughout.	Occasionally incorrect grammar is used.	Correct grammar is used.	Correct grammar is used throughout.
Technical Production	Presentation is recorded in a noisy environment with constant background noise and distractions.	Presentation is recorded in a semi-quiet environment with some background noise and distractions.	Presentation is recorded in a quiet environment with minimal background noise and distractions.	Presentation is recorded in a quiet environment without background noise and distractions.
	Volume changes are highly distracting.	Volume is occasionally inconsistent.	Volume is acceptable.	Volume of voice, music, and effects enhance the presentation.



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Option #5: Book review

You will be recording a video where you are reviewing a book from your reading log. Below is a rubric for you to study, so you know what is required. Your video should be between 3 and 5 minutes. Do not exceed 5 minutes.

CATEGORY	4	3	2	1	YOUR SCORE
Elements	Book review contains all required elements and they are accurate (title, author, genre, summary, favorite part, and overall recommendation).	Book review contains all required elements but they are not all accurate or developed.	Book review contains most required elements and parts included may not be accurate or developed.	Book review is missing several parts and the parts are inaccurate and not developed.	
Sentence Structure (Sentence Fluency)	All sentences are well constructed with varied structure on the written book review. They flow well for the audience.	Most sentences are well constructed with varied structure. They have pretty good flow for the audience.	Most sentences are well constructed but have a similar structure. Sentence flow is not what it could be.	Sentences lack structure and appear incomplete or rambling. Sentences do not flow well.	
Grammar, and vocabulary	Very few errors in grammar and/or vocabulary.	Several errors (4-5) but they do not interfere with understanding.	More errors (6-7) and some interfere with understanding.	Filled with errors (above 7)	
Oral Presentation	The presentation was well rehearsed and clear. The presenter was able to answer questions about the book.	The presentation was rehearsed and relatively clear. The presenter answered most of the questions about the book.	The presentation was not rehearsed and somewhat unclear. The presenter could answer few of the questions.	The presentation was not rehearsed and unclear. The presenter could not answer questions related to the book.	
Engaging the Audience	The student did not simply read the book review from his/her paper. He/she made eye contact with the audience, used gestures and emotion to enhance the book review, and added his/her own comments to engage the audience.	The student read the book review from his/her paper. He/she made eye contact with the audience and attempted gestures and emotion to enhance the book review.	The student read the book review from his/her paper. He/she made little eye contact with the audience and did not attempt gestures and emotion to enhance the book review.	The student read the book review from his/her paper but many parts could not be understood. He/she made no eye contact with the audience and did not attempt gestures and emotion to enhance the book review.	