

11th Grade Mr. Nordquist

Quarterly Independent Novel:

During our in-class independent novel reading time, you may read any book that you haven't read before. I expect the books to be appropriate for your age and reading ability. *If I question your choice of a book, I may ask for a note from your parents.* Reading will take place regularly in class, but students may need to read outside of class time to meet the 300-page goal.

"The man who does not read books has no advantage over the man who cannot read them."

– Mark Twain

Get your book from any source – our library, the public library, your home, or borrowed from a friend. Talk to me about your e-reader (Kindles, Nooks, etc.) and we'll come to an agreement. Other devices, such as iPods, iPads, and cell phones, are not allowed to be used as your e-reader. Whatever method you choose, be sure to have your book with you if you choose to do a scheduled book talk. **No Book = No Book Talk**

How is this scored? Quarter book talks or essays on your independent novel will count toward one of your priority standards. Your level of proficiency will depend on the number of pages you successfully report on. It is the total number of pages you read that will determine your overall standing, not the number of books. If you read more than the required number of pages in the quarter, the extra will carry over to the next nine weeks' grading period. The scale is as follows:

4 - Distinguished	3 - Proficient	2 - Developing	1 - Beginner	0 - Not Yet
251-300	201-250	150-200	100-149	99 or less

Option 1 - The Book Talk: The book project is an informal "book talk" with me. Your job is to convince me that you read the book. Be prepared to answer specific, detailed questions about your book. If you try to report on a book and are not able to convince me that you read it, you will not receive credit.

Your book talk will be scheduled toward the end of the quarter. I will announce deadlines in class. To maintain fairness, the deadlines will rotate each quarter. Feel free to complete book talks early. As soon as you finish a book, come see me to get the report done. If you delay and wait until the deadline, you'll likely forget details and will fail the book talk with me.

Option 2 - The Essay: The essay will be a short, 1.5 - 2.5 page essay about the book's theme. What is the author trying to teach the audience through his/her words? You will create a theme statement, and support that theme statement using at least 4 pieces of evidence from the text. The essay

will be due the same day as the final book talk. However, you can turn in your essay at any time during the quarter.

Keep reading this page to read the ***Fine Print*** !

*Bring your independent novel to class with you every day. We will start each class with SSR (Silent Sustained Reading) to allow you time to read in class. You will not be allowed to go back to your locker to get your independent novel if you forget it, so make sure you have it with you each day. If you finish your independent novel before the end of the quarter, you will need to get a new novel from the library on your own time. We will make a trip to the library at the beginning of each quarter to get a new independent reading novel.

Q1 8/26-10/25

Q2 10/28-1/17

Q3 1/21-3/20

Q4 3/30-6/2

*You are allowed to present only one book report to me per day. Again, report to me as soon as you finish a book. Don't allow your book talks to pile up and then try to do them all the day of your deadline. Every year, there's at least one sad soul who brings two books to me on deadline day only to be crushed by this rule. Don't be that kid.

*If you want to give your book talk early, please sign up for a time to come talk during intervention or immediately after school. If you do not schedule with me in advance, I may already have prior engagements that will take precedence.

*You may take notes while you read and use those notes during the book report. Post-It notes work especially well.

*You must have the book with you to do a book talk. No book = no book talk.

*I will keep track of your pages. You may ask to look at your book log at any time.