Book Report Project

For the purpose of Mr. L's reading class, a book report project is the sharing of a book in a creative and interesting way. We do this to promote sharing of books we've enjoyed, look critically at the plot and characters of a story, and analyze literary elements like conflict and theme.

There are 2 components for book report projects.

Presentation/Book Talk (share with other students)	Demonstration of Understanding Literary Components (shows understanding - sheet to turn in to Mr. L.)
Explanation: This is the creative and fun part. Students share a book that they enjoyed in a method of their choosing.	**Explanation:** This is the "business" end of the book report. Students are submit written (or typed) demonstration of their understanding of literary components to turn in to Mr. L.

Ideas that students have done in the past include: dressing up like a character and talking about the story, making a video or commercial, writing and acting out a skit, making an interesting Power Point, creating an animation of a scene, drawing a scene from the book, constructing a model that shows something important from the story, etc.
 	
Essential components of a presentation/book talk include:
 	
● An **interesting introduction** to catch the audience's attention
● A **brief summary** of the book (but do not give away "spoilers")
● **Student recommendation** of what type of reader might or might not enjoy the book.
● **Effort and time spent on project come through clearly** leaving no doubt the project was taken seriously and time was committed to a job well done.
● **a verbal summary of a nonfiction article** or book that has to do with the selected story (for example, an article about a hydroelectric plant for the City of Ember) and an explanation of how it ties in with the story.
	Requirements for literary components include:
	● **completion of a character analysis sheet**
	● **completion of a plot diagram sheet**
	   ○ *conflict*
	   ○ *plot (including rising action, climax, and falling action)*
	   ○ *resolution*
	● **description of major settings** (either on a document or included in the presentation/book talk)
	● **Answers to questions 1-6 below:**
	1. What was your **favorite part of the book** and why?
	2. What was the **most emotional or suspenseful part of the book**, and what connections with your life or another book, story, or movie were you able to make?
	3. What would you describe as a **low point of the book** (this can indicate part of the book that you didn't enjoy or a part of the book in which a character really struggled with a situation)?
	4. What was the **theme or lesson** learned by a character in the book?
	5. To what type of reader **would you recommend the book and why**? What type of reader might not like this book, and why not?
	6. What **nonfiction connection can you make** between the book and an actual thing or event in the real world? Include a summary of a nonfiction book or article along with the source of your information.

How long does the book report have to be? The actual amount of time it takes to share a book report can range from as little as 5 minutes up to 15 minutes (some have even gone longer). We're more concerned about demonstrating understanding and sharing our interest in a book than "writing a book-length summary." Creativity and finding ways for the audience to enjoy learning about the book are more important than length (as long as the basic requirements are met).

Do book report projects require a lot of writing?

Not necessarily (depending on what a student considers *a lot*), but as a student begins answering the required questions he or she should expect to write or type at least a page in length (approximately). *A summary of the book* is not required in paragraph form, but students must answer the 6 questions noted above in complete sentences.

Can I read *any book* to do a *book report* about?

Books should be approximately 100 pages *or more* of narrative text (written in words) and must have a recognizable plot. *Occasionally students ask for approval of a comic-novel. This is considered on a case-by-case basis.*

Can students work with a partner?

Partner projects are approved on a case-by-case basis. If a student works with a partner one time, then the next book report project must be done independently.