**9 Honors Book Reports:**

**Rationale, Requirements, and Format**

Reading is a crucial skill. We read for pleasure, to learn, to follow directions, to communicate, to entertain children, and to experience a world apart from our own. Becoming and being a good reader is pivotal to being successful in life. Good readers do well on tests, spend less time studying, write well, and have extensive vocabularies.

There is much research on the benefits of free voluntary reading.

- Student’s free reading leads to better reading comprehension, a more mature writing style, increased vocabulary, improvement in spelling, and a greater sense of language forms and conventions (Krashen).
- Students who reported reading more frequently for fun on their own time had higher average reading proficiency that those who reported reading less frequently (Mullis, Campbell, and Farstrup).

Reading is a developed skill. We wouldn’t expect people to become better singers, football players, or long-distance runners without practice. Therefore, we must practice reading daily in order to increase reading speed and comprehension. The great part about reading daily is that as you become a more skillful reader, you will start to enjoy reading more, which in turn will lead to more reading.

I believe in daily reading. You will have an outside reading book that you will read every Tuesday and Thursday for SSR. You will also need to complete reading at home.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pages per QUARTER (approx. every 8 weeks)</th>
<th>Pages per YEAR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>350</td>
<td>1400</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

On average you should be reading 35-45 pages per week!

Books that are required school reading DO NOT count. Also, books you have read before DO NOT count.

All books have to be FICTION and at your reading level.

Your outside reading will be worth 100 points each quarter. Divide the amount of pages you read by 350 to get your grade.

Failure to do a book report with Ms. Cross results in an "F."

Here is how the book report process works.

- You can do a book report anytime we have SSR (Better sooner than later, so you don't forget what you read)
- On the day you want to give a book report, place your Book Report Card (if it’s a final book report) and your book log colored card in your book, and place them both on the middle table at the start of class.
- You will talk to me about your book for about 5 minutes. I will ask you what it is about and possibly ask you some questions.
- I’m pretty good at spotting a liar -- DON'T LIE TO ME!

*If you have not finished your book by the end of the quarter (but have completed the required amount of pgs) you will give a PROVISIONAL book report (you will be graded on what you have read so far). Just bring your book and I will ask you a few questions.


You must complete a "Book Report", either PROVISIONAL or FINAL, prior to the last week of the quarter. You can complete a book report with Ms. Cross any Tuesday or Thursday during SSR. As it gets closer to the end of the 8-9 weeks there will be sign ups for those that have waited until the last minute to complete their pages/book report. You may only do a FINAL book report for the last quarter — NO PROVISIONALS Q4.

You are only allowed to do one book report per meeting with me. You must have your book to do your book report and your Book Report Card (if it’s a FINAL book report), without it you will receive no credit.
Book Report Card: A white 4X6 index card with the following information written in blue/ black ink. You must fit all of this information on one index card (front and back), so be thoughtful and concise. Please use this outline format:

1. Your name and the date of the report.
2. The title of the book and author (please highlight).
3. The date that the book was first published (found by the © symbol).
4. Total number of pages you read for that book report.
5. Discussion of the plot: (a.-e.)
   a. Where does the story take place (setting)?
   b. Who is the protagonist? (The protagonist is the main character and the person whose conflict sets the plot in motion.)
   c. What does the protagonist want?
   d. What gets in his/ her way (conflict & antagonist)? (Conflict refers to a struggle or clash between opposing characters, forces, or emotions. An antagonist is a character or force that opposes or blocks the protagonist.)
   e. Does the protagonist solve his/ her problems? Is so, how?
6. Rank the book on a scale of 1-10 and tell me why.
7. Write 3 questions down that I could use to quiz another student on whether they have read the book or not. Provide the answers and page number (or chapter if needed) in which the answer was found. If the book has been made into a movie, and you have seen it, make sure the questions verify if the student read the book or not. You play the teacher here…take it seriously.
8. Write your favorite quote from the book and tell me why it was your favorite. Include the page number.
9. Lastly, tell me the message you learned from your book. Basically, what is the theme? (a statement; not a word)

Your book report grade will primarily be determined by the amount of pages you have completed. Divide the number of pages your read by the total required. You will lose points from your final book report grade if you:

- Fail to bring your assigned SSR book to class. (-2 points/each time)
- Fail to write your current selection on your book card (a card you will keep in class that logs your progress and your book selections). (-2 points)
- Switch books after the second week of the quarter (this does not pertain to starting a new book after the completion of another) (-10 points)
- Fail to complete a book you gave a provisional book report on. (-10 points)
- Do not maintain satisfactory progress throughout the quarter….meaning you read all your pages the night before your book report. No bueno. (-10 points)
- Fail to answer questions correctly during a provisional or final book report. (-2ish points)
- Turn in an incomplete index card during a final book report (-2 points for each mistake)
- Your book is not teacher approved, below your reading level, and/or a required school reading book. (-10 points)

You will complete at least 4 book reports throughout the year. The following dates are the last days you can complete a book report for the corresponding quarter. Remember you can complete a book report any Tuesday or Thursday during SSR.

Write the following dates in your agenda:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quarter 1</th>
<th>October 1-3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quarter 2</td>
<td>December 3-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quarter 3</td>
<td>March 17-19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quarter 4</td>
<td>May 19-21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“Read, read, read. Read everything – trash, classics, good and bad, and see how they do it. Just like a carpenter who works as an apprentice and studies the master.”

-William Faulkner