

**OVERVIEW OF INDEPENDENT READING**

In Language Arts class, part of the curriculum includes independent reading. Independent reading means that you, the student, choose books you want to read; you will write about these books in your Reader Response Journals on a weekly basis and choose one novel a quarter to present to/share with the class.

You may read books you own, from my classroom, from a friend, from the public library, etc. We will visit the public library every other Thursday during Language Arts so that you may have a chance to check out novels appropriate to your reading level and in subject matter. (You are allowed to check out up to six novels at a time; please only do this if you plan on reading them in the couple of weeks following our visit to the library.) Since this is the *public* library, late fees are *your* responsibility. Books are due every two weeks, and late fees will accrue if you don't renew your books on time. You may renew books during our bi-weekly visits to the library, by calling (965-9732) the library, or by logging on to their website, [www.steelevillelibrary.org](http://www.steelevillelibrary.org).

Once you find a book you would like to read, you are expected to figure your reading rate for that novel and plan out how much you need to read each day/week in order to finish reading the novel within four weeks; once a quarter, you will present a Book Talk and complete two Book Talk Activities over one of those novels. After you finish reading a novel, you will need to find a new novel to read; you should **always** have a book to read independently.

After you find a novel you would like to read independently, you will need to do the following:

<b>NON-BOOK TALK NOVEL</b>	<b>BOOK TALK NOVEL</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grab a <b>Book Selection Form</b> (top tray).               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fill out the entire BSF, including your reading rate (follow the formula on the BSF).</li> <li>Write <i>NONE</i> for your Book Talk date.</li> <li>Turn in the BSF to the Turn-In tray.</li> </ol> </li> <li>Read your book making sure to keep up with your <b>weekly reading rate</b>.</li> <li>Write to the assigned prompt in your <b>Reader Response Journal</b> each week.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grab a <b>Book Selection Form</b> (top tray).               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fill out the entire BSF, including your reading rate (follow the formula on the BSF).</li> <li>Figure out feasible date for your Book Talk (no more than 5-7 days after finishing the book).</li> <li>Turn in the BSF to the Turn-In tray.</li> </ol> </li> <li>Read your book making sure to keep up with your <b>weekly reading rate</b>.</li> <li>Write to the assigned prompt in your <b>Reader Response Journal</b> each week.</li> <li>Make sure you are finding and flagging <b>vocabulary words</b> as you read (if you plan on using vocabulary as one of the activities).</li> <li>When you finish the book, fill out the <b>Book Information Form</b> for the Book Talk (second tray).</li> <li>Choose and complete <b>two</b> appropriate activities from the <b>Book Talk Activity Choice Board</b> (page 5 of this packet).</li> </ol> <p><b>**The Book Information and two activities are due at the time of your Book Talk. If you present earlier than your chosen date, your activities are due at the end of the next week after you present.</b></p> <p><b>**[Book Talks will be given the last day of every week; see dates on the chalkboard and at <a href="http://www.mrsrubach.weebly.com">www.mrsrubach.weebly.com</a>.]</b></p>

**\*\* If I don't approve your Book Talk date for a book ahead of time because you didn't fill out a Book Selection Form with the required information—including a date—you will earn no points. (If I've approved your BSF with a date and you simply want to present early, I do NOT have to approve that ahead of time.)**

## STEP 1: FIND A NOVEL TO READ

Find a novel you would like to read independently. This may be a novel from home, a friend, the classroom, the library, etc. As long as the novel is appropriate in reading level and subject, I will more than likely approve it.

📖 If you get into a book and do not like it, you may switch to a different book *after* I approve the switch. On the Book Selection Form for the book you switch to, you will need to write a note that you switched. But, you may only switch one time in a quarter. (Try to use the rule of thumb: if you've read at least 50 pages or more, stick it out and finish it.)

## STEP 2: FILL OUT THE BOOK SELECTION FORM

After you have selected a book and figured your reading rate for that book, you need to fill out and turn in a Book Selection Form—located in the top tray—so that I have record of what you are reading and whether or not you plan to give a Book Talk over the book. (This applies to ALL books you read whether for a Book Talk or not.)

Book Selection Form

Student name: _____	Homeroom: _____	Date: _____
Title of Book: _____		
Series and # in Series: _____		
Author: _____	# Pages: _____	BT Date: _____
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div> <p><b>Reading Rate:</b> Read for 15 minutes    Page # ended _____</p> <p>Pages # started — _____</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <math display="block">X2 = \frac{\text{Page \# ended} - \text{Page \# started}}{\text{\# pages/30 min.}} \times 5 = \boxed{\text{PAGES/WEEK}}</math> </div> </div>		

Student Name: FIRST and LAST names

Date: this is the date you *started reading* the book

Title of Book: Make sure to CAPITALIZE appropriately (First word and all other words that are *not* 2-3 letter prepositions or conjunctions) and UNDERLINE the title

Series and # in Series: If the book is part of a series, please write the name of the series it is in (capitalize and underline just like the title) AND write down what number it is in the series. (If it's not in a series, write NONE.)

Author: Please include the author's first and last names, making sure to capitalize each.

# of Pages: This is the number of pages through the chapters PLUS epilogue or afterword. If the novel includes the first chapter of the next book in the series, please do not include these pages.

Anticipated Book Talk Date: I will post these at the beginning of each quarter on the board and at [www.mrsrubach.weebly.com](http://www.mrsrubach.weebly.com) under the IR tab. (Write *NONE* if not for a Book Talk.)

Reading Rate: Time yourself reading for 15 minutes. Make note of how many pages you read in that time. Take that number of pages times 2 to find the number of pages you can read in 30 minutes (daily). That number times 5 will give you your weekly reading rate.

### STEP 3: READ YOUR BOOK

Now you need to read your book. Make sure you keep track of the pages you read on a daily or weekly basis so that you stay on pace with your weekly reading rate; staying on track will help you earn full points on your weekly journal entries. There may be days when you hardly read any pages; you will know that you need to make up those pages by the end of the week so that you do not fall behind in your reading. Try to at least stay on track weekly if you have trouble keeping up with your daily goals.

#### Book Talk

If you are reading the book for a Book Talk, I encourage you to check out the choices from the IR Choice Board *before* you begin reading so that you can keep in mind some of the information to take in while you read. This could make completing the activity and preparing for the Book Talk much easier for you. Use post-its to make notes in your book for the activities you choose to complete.

Also, make sure to flag words (10) you could use for the vocabulary activity. These are words you may never have heard of before, words that are familiar but you don't know the meanings, or words you think you know the meanings of but feel the need to look up just to make sure. (Obviously, common words will earn no credit.)

**\*\*REMEMBER:** You should take no longer than FOUR WEEKS to read a book.\*\*

### STEP 4: READER RESPONSE JOURNAL ENTRIES

Each week, students will be assigned a prompt to write to about what each has read during the past week in their Reader Response Journals (composition notebooks). For each Journal entry, students will need to follow the directions given on the prompt page attached to the inside of the front cover of their Journals.

Students need to write each entry so that they answer the prompt fully. This includes using details/events from the story that support the thoughts/opinions written by the student.

Reader Response Journal Rubric (10 points per entry)			
-2 points	no BSF turned in for the book written about	-1 point	between 75%-99% of reading completed for the week
-1 point each	missing/incorrect prompt, title of book (underlined), date	-2 points	between 50%-74% of reading completed for the week
-1 point	each line less than 12 lines	-3 points	between 25%-49% of reading completed for the week
- ≤5 points	for not using detail from the book to help explain/prove response	-4 points	less than 25% of reading completed for the week

Due dates: 6<sup>th</sup> grade—Thursday; 7<sup>th</sup> grade—Wednesday; 8<sup>th</sup> grade—Tuesday

Reader Response Journal Prompts and Guidelines follow on pages 4 & 5 of this packet.  
These are the same prompts and guidelines attached inside your Journal.

For each Journal entry, please make sure to write the day's date in the upper, right hand corner of the page. On the top line of the page, please write the title of the book as well as the most recent page read. On the first line down, please COPY (word-for-word) the journal prompt to which you are responding. Skip a line and begin your response (minimum of half a page long—pictures and diagrams do not count toward this length) to the prompt.

**MAKE SURE TO WRITE ABOUT EVENTS FROM THE STORY THAT SUPPORT YOUR RESPONSE TO EACH PROMPT.**

	Title of Book page #	date
	Copy the entire prompt	
	Begin your half-page response.	

### Story Elements

1. Explore how the main character changed (especially in thinking or feeling about or toward someone/something) throughout the story. Make sure to write about the character before the change, what happened to cause the change, and the character after the change?
2. Write a letter to a character in the book or a letter from one character to another.
3. Compare & contrast two characters in the book by describing their similarities and their differences.
4. Compare a character in your book to a character in another book you have read.
5. Write a diary entry in the voice of a character in your book.
6. Describe an interesting or important character in your book. Make sure to include events in which the character was involved.
7. Write about something that happened in the story that surprised you or that you found interesting.
8. Write about your favorite part of the book, explaining why it's your favorite and why it was important to the story.
9. Tell your thoughts or feelings about the theme of the story. (Make sure to include the theme and the events that help developed it.)
10. Describe places where the author gives good descriptions of the characters, setting, problem, or solution. How did the author do this? (wording, figurative language, sentence structure, etc.)

### Recall

1. Describe in details the setting (time and place/surroundings) of your book and how it fits into the story.
2. List three character traits that describe the book's main character. Write about the events from the book that made you choose those traits.
3. Summarize the chapter you just read.
4. Retell the ending of the story AND write your feelings about it. [Only if you've finished reading the entire novel.]
5. List five facts you learned about the topic covered in the book or article. [nonfiction, auto/biography, historical fiction]

### Prediction

1. Based on the title *and* the first chapter, what do you think the book is about?
2. Who do you think the culprit is? Why?
3. Describe what you think will happen next. Why do you think as you do?
4. Which character do you think will change the most by the end? Why?
5. How do you think the main conflict will be resolved? [Make sure you explain what the conflict is.]
6. Write your predictions about the story from when you started reading and tell whether or not they were right. [after finishing the book]
7. How do you think the story will end? Why do you think as you do?

### Connections

1. What were your feelings after reading the first chapter?
2. What advice would you give a character in this book? Why?
3. What character would you most like to be? Why?
4. Describe a character's personality trait that you'd like to possess. Why do you like this trait?
5. Explain how any aspect of the book (character, setting, conflict, plot, etc.) reminds you of yourself, people you know, or of something that happened in your life.
6. How have you changed your way of thinking/feeling about anything after reading this book? Explain.

(RRJ Guidelines and Prompts continued)

**Opinion**

1. Why do you think the author chose the opening line he or she did? Did you like it? Why/why not? Did it make you want to read further?
2. Who is your favorite character? Why? If you would like, draw a picture of this character.
3. What do you think of the antagonist's actions? Are they right or wrong?
4. What do you think is the most important scene/event in the book so far? Why?
5. How would a different setting affect the story? [Makes sure to describe the present setting as well as a "different" setting.]
6. Was the cover design effective? Did it make you want to read the book? Explain. [If you would like, create a new cover design for this book.]
7. Did you like the ending of the book? How would you have liked it to end? Rewrite a new ending for the book.
8. Write a question you would like to ask the author. How do you think he or she would respond?
9. Do you agree with the point (life lesson) the author is making? Why?
10. Do you like the ending of this book? Why or why not? Do you think there is more to tell?

**Language**

1. Copy a sentence from the book that you think is well written. Why do you like this sentence?
2. Find examples of figurative language (simile, metaphor, personification, alliteration, idiom, hyperbole, cliché, allusion, etc.) in the text. Write them down, label each by type of figurative language, and explain what the author means by each sentence.
3. Write down any allusions found in the reading. Explain how each helps the reader's understanding or message the author is trying to convey.
4. Describe the author's craft: What was good about the author's writing? What things might you try to do in your own writing that you learned from this author?
5. Describe how the author makes you *feel* through their writing. What about it makes you feel this way?

**Evaluation (after finishing the book)**

1. Did you enjoy the book? Why or why not?
2. Was the book hard or easy to read? Why?
3. What surprised you in the text?
4. Would you like to read more books by this author? Why or why not?
5. Do you think the author chose a good title for the book? Why or why not?
6. What did you learn about the time in which the story took place?
7. Write about an important life lesson that was learned in the story.
8. Describe parts of the book that puzzled you or made you ask questions.
9. Explain why you think that your book is popular with students in the class (if it is popular with other readers in the class).
10. Would you recommend the book to another reader? Explain why or why not.
11. Describe what you would change about the book if you could rewrite it.
12. Explain what you want to remember about this book and why.
13. Make a list of "lingering questions" you have after finishing the book.
14. Make a list of things you don't understand, find confusing, or have questions about.

**Nonfiction, Auto/Biography, Historical Fiction**

1. List five facts you learned about the topic covered in the book or article.
2. What surprised you in this book?
3. What changed, challenged, or confirmed what you already knew?
4. Would you read another book by this author or about this subject matter? Why/why not?

*\*Remember: If the assigned prompt/prompt choices don't work for where you are in your book, please write a note to me about why it doesn't work and why one you choose would work better for where you are in the story. Please write this note after you copy the prompt of your choice, before you begin writing the response for it.*

**If you are NOT reading this book for a Book Talk,  
Steps 1-4 are all you will need to complete.**

**Continue on if you will be giving a Book Talk over your book.**

### **STEP 5: PREPARE A BOOK TALK**

1. Fill out the **Book Information** for a Book Talk paper (middle tray). This is due when you present your Book Talk. This will help you prepare for the oral presentation.
2. Practice presenting your Book Talk. You may use the Book Information or the script found on page 22 in this packet or at [www.mrsrubach.weebly.com](http://www.mrsrubach.weebly.com).

### **STEP 6: BOOK TALK ACTIVITY CHOICE BOARD**

After you finish reading your Book Talk book, you will need to complete **two** of the activities from the board below.

(Specific directions and rubrics for each activity are found in this packet and at [www.mrsrubach.weebly.com](http://www.mrsrubach.weebly.com).)

<b>BOOK TALK ACTIVITY CHOICE BOARD</b>		
<p><b>VOCABULARY</b> Find 10 words of which you did not know the meaning. For each, write down the word, the page #, copy the sentence, and define it as it was used in that sentence.</p> <p><b>EXTRA CREDIT</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>illustrate the meaning of each word</li> </ul> <p><b>OR</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>use each word in figurative language relevant to the story</li> </ul>	<p><b>ADVERTISEMENTS</b> Write 4 advertisements for goods or services that the characters may need.</p>	<p><b>ADVICE COLUMN</b> Write 2 sets of "Dear Abby" letters &amp; responses from one of the characters.</p>
	<p><b>COMIC STRIP</b> Create a comic strip that retells the story (including the elements of the plot) making sure to include 10-12 major events in the story</p>	<p><b>MAP</b> Draw or find a map and show (through illustrations &amp; labels) the elements of the plot, making sure to include 10-12 major events in the story</p>
	<p><b>CHARACTER CELL PHONE</b> Create a cell phone for the main character.</p>	<p><b>BOOK JACKET</b> Create an <b>original</b> book jacket/cover</p>

Activities, 10 points each = 20 POINTS TOTAL  
(found online at [www.mrsrubach.weebly.com](http://www.mrsrubach.weebly.com))

**BOOK INFORMATION AND TWO ACTIVITIES ARE DUE THE DATE OF YOUR BOOK TALK  
(If you present your Book Talk early, activities are due the following week).**

## Book Talk Activity Choices

**\*\*Make sure that if you choose to not use the available templates that each activity you turn in has the following information written in the upper right-hand corner if it is on loose-leaf paper and on the back, upper right-hand corner if it is on unlined paper:**

Your first and last names  
Homeroom  
Book Talk Date  
Title of Book  
Activity Completed

## Vocabulary Words/Definitions

(10 points) \*Vocab is NOT REQUIRED

While reading, use post-its to mark at least 10 words of which you do not know the meanings, or maybe you are unsure of the meanings. In order to complete the activity, you will need to write down the word, the page number, the sentence in which you find the word (underlining the word), and define that word for how it was used in that sentence using a dictionary or the Internet. You may either type up or handwrite this activity; whichever you choose, please follow the format on pages 6-7 of this packet.

### RUBRIC:

*Full points will be awarded if all boxes are filled out correctly and neatly.*

Points will be taken off as follows:

- 1 point for each "vocabulary word" missing
- ¼ point for each missing sentence from the reading where the word was found
- ¼ point for each missing or incorrect definition
- ¼ point for each missing page number
- 1 point for each word that is illegible

Remember when printing this template from [www.mrsrubach.weebly.com](http://www.mrsrubach.weebly.com) at school...

1. Choose the NEW ESLAB B&W
2. Print only Pages: 2-3
3. Print on Both Sides

1. (word)	page	(sentence in which word was found)
def:		
2.	page	
def:		
3.	page	
def:		
4.	page	
def:		
5.	page	
def:		



6.	page	
def:		
7.	page	
def:		
8.	page	
def:		
9.	page	
def:		
10.	page	
def:		

## Advertisements

(10 points)

Think about the characters from the story, the problems they encounter, and the events that take place. What services or goods might the characters have needed to help them through the events that took place or to help them solve the problems they encountered?

Create 4 advertisements (each within the boxes provided *or* on 4 blank index cards) making sure to include:

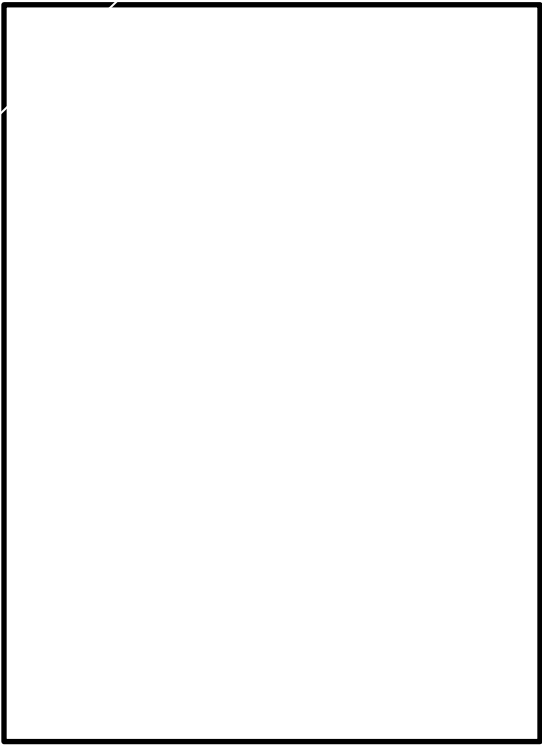
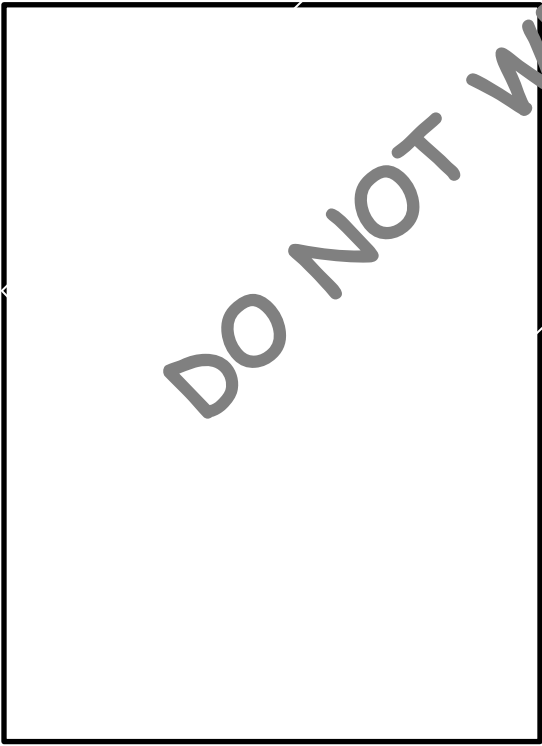
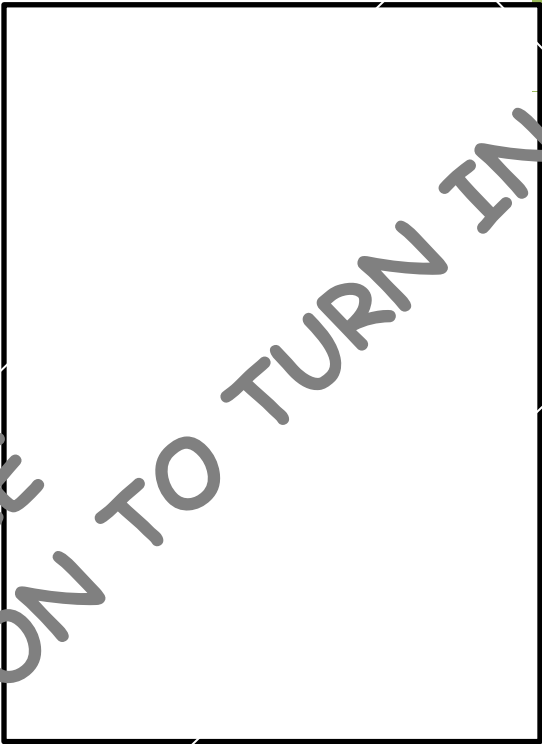
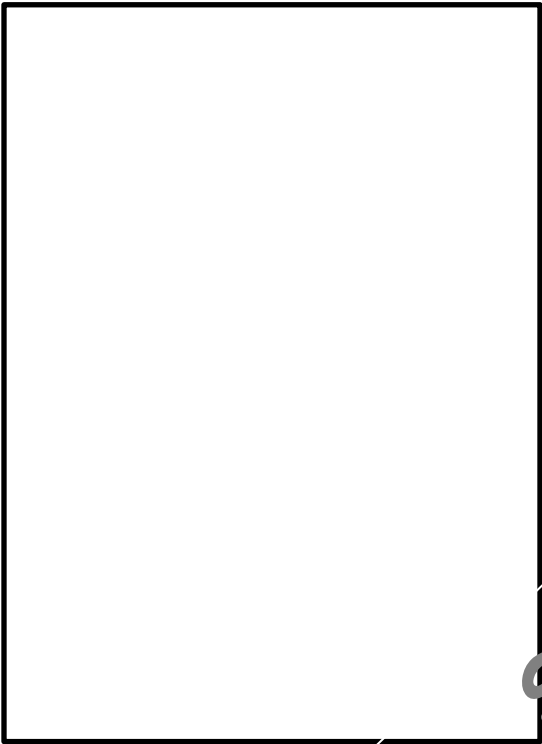
- the **name** of the company/establishment providing the service or good
- the **service or good** being provided
- **pictures** or other **graphics** that would help the appearance of the advertisement
- an **address** or **phone number** for the company/establishment
- possibly the **cost** of the good/service
- appropriate **color**

### RUBRIC:

*Full points will be awarded if all advertisements are created correctly and neatly.*

Points will be taken off as follows:

- 2 ½ points for each missing advertisement
- ½ point for each missing piece of information (from the bulleted points above, including color)
- ¼ point for incorrect spelling, punctuation, grammar per instance
- ½ - 1 point for sloppiness per advertisement



SAMPLE  
DO NOT WRITE ON TO TURN IN

## Advice Letters

(10 points)

Think about all of the problems, big and small, the main character(s) ran into in the book. You will write two different letters to an advice column person (made up or otherwise) asking for advice about different problems encountered by the character(s) in the story. These letters may be from two different characters or just the main character. Not only will you need to write *asking* for advice, you will also need to *answer* those letters with some advice as if you are the person who writes the advice column.

Make sure your letters include the following

- Greeting (Dear \_\_\_\_\_,)
- Name of the person to whom you are writing
- A description of the problem (this should take more than 2 sentences)
- Asking for advice about that problem
- Giving good advice from the advice-giver (at least 2-3 sentences)
- Closing (Sincerely; Thank you; Yours truly; etc.)
- Signature (your name)

Letters must be neatly written on loose-leaf paper or typed.

### RUBRIC:

*Full points will be awarded if all 4 letters are written correctly and neatly.*

Points will be taken off as follows:

- 2½ points per letter missing letter
- 1-2 points for each letter less than 5 sentences long
- ½ point for each missing part per letter (from the bulleted points above)
- ½ -2 points for sloppiness per letter (If I can't read it, I can't grade it.)
- ¼ to ½ point per improper punctuation, spelling, and grammar (each instance)

Example of

Letter Asking for Advice

and Letter of Advice



**Comic Strip**

(10 points)

Think about the main (important) events from the plot, the problems encountered, and how they were solved. Narrow these down to the 10-12 most important events (include exposition, rising action, conflict, falling action, and resolution). Now you will need to draw—to the best of your ability—pictures that illustrate these 10-12 events.

Each frame should include

- Hand-drawn pictures that illustrate the event
- Coloring that best depicts details from the story
- Either a title for the frame that explains what the picture is depicting OR speech bubbles that convey the event

**RUBRIC:**

*Full points will be awarded if all frames depict main events correctly and neatly.*

Points will be taken off as follows:

- 1 point for each missing/incorrect frame (minimum of 10 frames/events)
- ¼ point for missing/incorrect/inappropriate title/speech bubbles OR incorrect written representation
- ¼ point for missing/incorrect part of the plot (exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, resolution)
- ½ point for each frame without color or with incorrect color (according to text)
- ¼ - ½ point for each instance of incorrect spelling, punctuation, or grammar
- ½ - 5 point(s) for sloppiness (the more difficult time I have determining what you drew and wrote due to sloppiness, the more points lost)

**\*\*If you feel like the templates below do not give you the necessary room, you may create your own on legal size paper (available in my room). PLEASE do not use poster board or construction paper; use only white, unlined paper of 8 ½ x11 or 8 ½ x 14. (If you choose to draw out your own, please use a ruler/straight edge to make sure your frames are neat and of similar sizes. )**

Remember when printing this template from [www.mrsrubach.weebly.com](http://www.mrsrubach.weebly.com) at school...

1. Choose the NEW ESLAB B&W
2. Print only Pages: 2-3
3. Print on Both Sides

(“title” of event)	
(part of plot)	



[illegible]

## Map

(10 points)

Think about the main (important) events from the plot, the problems encountered, and how they were solved. Narrow these down to the 10-12 most important events (include exposition, rising action, conflict, falling action, and resolution). Now you will need to either find a map of for the story or draw—to the best of your ability—a map so that you can plot these 10-12 events; simply write numbers on the map where each major event took place. On a separate sheet of paper, you will need name, explain, and label (part of plot) each event after the corresponding numbers:

- A title for the event that explains what the picture is depicting
- The part of the plot (exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution) for the event
- An description/explanation of the event

### RUBRIC:

*Full points will be awarded if the map is created neatly and correctly.*

-1 points for each missing event [minimum of 10 events]

- ¼ point for each missing/incorrect title

- ¼ point for each missing/incorrect part of plot

- ½ point for each missing/incorrect description/explanation

- ½ -2 point(s) for incorrect spelling, punctuation, grammar

- ½ -5 point(s) for sloppiness, lack of/inappropriate color, poor spacing (the more difficult time I have determining what you drew and wrote due to sloppiness, the more points lost)

**\*\*If you feel like the templates below do not give you the necessary room, you may create your own on legal size paper (available in my room). PLEASE do not use poster board or construction paper; use only white, unlined paper of 8 ½ x11 or 8 ½ x 14. (If you choose to draw out your own, please use a ruler/straight edge to make sure your frames are neat and of similar sizes.)**

## Character Cell Phone

(10 points)

Choosing the main character or one of the major characters, create a cell phone for him/her. Make sure to include a background picture, contacts, a text message conversation, social media “posts”, music, and apps, explaining each choice made. You may either use the template at [www.mrsrubach.weebly.com](http://www.mrsrubach.weebly.com) or draw your own screens (template also available in the classroom).

- The background picture needs to be relevant to and appropriate for the character.
- Create a list of names (minimum of 5) of people that character would have in his/her contacts. Make sure these are in alphabetical order. (no need to create numbers)
- Create an in-depth text conversation (minimum of 5 texts) between that character and another (possibly a group conversation) about an event in the book.
- Choose 5 songs (include artists) that the character would listen to or are appropriate to any of the events in the novel.
- Choose (real or made up) 6 apps that the character would use or need in the story. (General apps like Google, camera, clock, etc. will not count.)

### RUBRIC

- 2 points for each missing part/section

- ¼ - 1½ points for missing/incorrect explanations (include good detail from the story)

- ½ -5 points for sloppiness (If I can't read it, I can't grade it.)

- ¼ to ½ point per improper punctuation, spelling, and grammar (each instance)



**Book Jacket**

(10 points)

Think about creating a book jacket/cover for the book you read. Take a look at the book cover on the book you read. You are going to create an **original** book jacket. This means that the picture on the front will be something you came up with to represent the book; the summary will be your thoughts and words; the note about the author will be your wording of information you've found about him/her.

**The book jacket must include:**

- the title of the book (spelled and capitalized correctly)
- author's name (spelled and capitalized correctly)
- a design/illustration for the front cover
- an original summary/book blurb (5-15 sentences)
- a note about the author (5-8 sentences)

**Choose *at least one* extra:**

- review from 2-3 newspapers/critiques
- picture of setting or author
- quote from main character
- anything else you think would be appropriate.

Please make sure the information/pictures are **well-spaced** on the book jacket so that it is **neat** and **pleasing** to look at.

Make sure to use **color**, write **neatly**, and place all pictures and writing so that "blank space" is minimized.

**RUBRIC:**

*Full points will be awarded if the book jacket is original, neatly depicted, and appropriate to the book.*

Points will be taken off as follows:

- 2 points for missing/incorrect title and/or author
- 1 ½ points for non-original, inappropriate, or missing picture/design
- 1 ½ points for non-original, inappropriate, or missing book summary
- 1 ½ points for non-original, inappropriate, or missing note about the author
- 1 ½ points for non-original, inappropriate, or missing "other" piece
- ½ -5 point(s) for incorrect spelling, punctuation, grammar
- ½ -3 point(s) for sloppiness, too much blank space, out of alignment, etc.

**HELPFUL HINTS**

When you fold your paper for your book jacket, you have two options: create flaps by folding or create flaps by "drawing" the flaps.

The following is a good way to make sure you have used space well:

- *Front*: title, author, design/illustration depicting the story
- *Back*: original summary OR note about the author
- *Front Inside Flap*: original summary OR note about the author OR "other" piece
- *Back Inside Flap*: note about the author OR "other" piece

If you fold the cover to have flaps, when you unfold it, this will be the format:

back inside flap	BACK		FRONT	front inside flap
Note about the author  Or  "other" piece	Original Summary (an actual summary of the ENTIRE story, not just an attention grabber)  Or  Original note about the author	Title of Book  Author's Name	Title of Book  <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> original design/illustration depicting the story </div> Author's Name	Original summary  Or  Note about the author  Or  "other" piece

- Make sure to **COLOR** your entire cover. Do not use dark colors for the background because the writing will be difficult to read.
- Make sure to "center" your writing both vertically and horizontally. If you have quite a bit of blank space above and below a section of writing, you could always draw "dividers" such as



or you could draw simple pictures that would be representative of parts of the book (characters, pieces of setting, important items, etc.).

- You may use a blank piece of printer paper or the paper available in my classroom for the book jackets. Please do not use poster board or laminate the cover. Simple paper is all that is required.
- You may cut the paper down so that it is not quite so tall if you need.

**EXTRA CREDIT: Wordle (or any word cloud creator)**

- ★ Using important words (title, author, characters, 1-word themes, setting, important details, etc.) from your novel, create a Wordle at [www.wordle.net](http://www.wordle.net). (This site works best through Internet Explorer.)
  - More important words need to be repeated more so that they are bigger on your Wordle.
  - I would suggest that after you type all of your words into the text box *but* before you hit the create button, copy all of your words. If you see that you need to go back and add another word or add more of a certain word, you will have to start all over.
  - A Wordle must include at least **10 different** words/phrases in order to earn extra credit.

**STEP 8: PRACTICE YOUR PRESENTATION**

Whether you present the book talk to one of your parents, a sibling, your pet, or even a stuffed animal, practicing helps you become familiar with what you want to say, how you want to say it, and making eye contact. PLEASE practice your presentation until you are comfortable giving it. ☺

**STEP 9 (optional): PREPARE POWER POINT SLIDE (extra credit)**

(OPTIONAL—possible 2 points extra credit) Create a visual aid via Power Point, Blabberize, Glogster, Haiku Deck, Popplet, Prezi, etc.—all are found online except PowerPoint. If you want to create one of these optional visual aids, you will need to take the time to figure out how each works. You **must** include the following:

Title  
Author  
# Pages  
Setting (time and place)  
Theme  
Recommendation  
Picture of book

\*Having a visual aid not only earns you extra credit, it also gives your audience something to focus on other than you. ☺

\*Please make sure that spelling, capitalization (author name, title of book, etc.), and punctuation (underline title of book, comma between town & state, etc.) are all correct. You cannot earn maximum points if you have any mistakes.

**BOOK TALK INFORMATION**

(page 1)

Title of Book

Copyright © Year

If this is a part of a series, tell the number it is and the name of the series

Author

Place of Birth and/or Residence

Awards won

Number of Pages

Genre (see page 23 of packet)

Why did you choose this book?

**READABILITY:**

Really Easy

Medium

Hard

\*Explain **why** (difficult/easy vocabulary to pronounce, difficulty of words' definitions, too many characters, organization of book/chapters/story line, etc.)

**SETTING**—Time (time period or a year, if given; may need to describe)—Place (*describe* the place as well as give the name)—Describe the **MAIN CHARACTER** of this book—

NAME:

AGE/AGE-RANGE:

APPEARANCE (AS IT MATTERS TO THE CHARACTERIZATION):

PERSONALITY:

SHORT SUMMARY, INCLUDING CONFLICT FACED (BE SPECIFIC):

**BOOK INFORMATION FOR BOOK TALK**

(page 2)

21

The main theme that stood out to me was \_\_\_\_\_. Throughout the story, several events lead me to this theme:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
4. (optional)

Would you recommend this book? Why or why not?

**BOOK TALK****SAMPLE BLANK "SCRIPT"**

(www.mrsrubach.weebly.com/documents)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(title of book)

the \_\_\_\_\_ book in the \_\_\_\_\_  
(number in the series) (genre)

\_\_\_\_\_ series  
(name of the series)

by \_\_\_\_\_, won several awards, including the  
(author's name)

\_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_. It was  
(name of most recent award) (year of award)

\_\_\_\_\_ to read due to  
(readability)

\_\_\_\_\_.  
(reason for difficulty level)

In \_\_\_\_\_, a \_\_\_\_\_ in  
(name of town) (describe town)

\_\_\_\_\_ during  
(state, country, region of country, etc.)

\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_  
(year, time period, etc.) (main character's name)

a \_\_\_\_\_  
(describe character: age, appearance, personality, etc.)

has to \_\_\_\_\_.  
(face what conflict)

The main theme that stood out to me was \_\_\_\_\_. Throughout the story, several events lead me to this theme:  
(explain at least three details from throughout the book).

I think \_\_\_\_\_ would enjoy reading this book because \_\_\_\_\_.

## BOOK TALK RUBRIC

(20 POINTS)

23

	5	4	3	2	1
Content/Required Book Info	Fully explains appropriate theme: <b>three or more relevant details fully explaining</b> how the themes fit the novel  All required information presented correctly  Book Info Form <b>completed correctly</b>	Mostly explains theme: <b>three relevant details somewhat explaining</b> how the themes fit the novel; a few questions remain  One piece of required information missing/incorrect  Book Info Form <b>at least 75% completed correctly</b>	Barely explains theme: <b>two relevant details somewhat explaining</b> how the themes fit the novel; several questions remain  Two pieces of required information missing/incorrect  Book Info Form <b>at least 50% completed correctly</b>	Minimal explanation: <b>only one or two relevant details barely explaining</b> how the theme fit the novel; many questions remain  Three pieces of required information missing/incorrect  Book Info Form <b>less than 50% completed correctly</b>	<b>No theme</b> presented but attempts with “non-theme”; not enough information presented to even ask clarification questions  > <b>Three</b> pieces of required information missing/incorrect <b>No</b> Book Info Form
Comprehension	Shows <b>full understanding</b> of book; <b>accurate information</b> without giving away any of the story while enticing the audience to want to read it.  Able to <b>answer questions in detail</b> .	Shows <b>good understanding</b> of book; <b>one piece of inaccurate</b> information (minor detail) and/or gives away a small part of the story.  Able to <b>answer questions</b> correctly.	Shows <b>some understanding</b> of book; <b>two pieces of inaccurate</b> information (minor details) and/or gives away a bigger part of the story.  Able to answer <b>most questions</b> correctly.	Shows <b>little understanding</b> of the book; <b>two pieces of inaccurate</b> information (more than just minor details); gives away major part of the story  Able to answer <b>some questions</b> correctly.	Shows <b>little understanding</b> of the book; <b>more than two pieces of inaccurate</b> information. Fails to give enough information to demonstrate understanding of the story.  <b>Unable</b> to answer most questions.
Posture and Eye Contact	Stands up straight, looks <b>relaxed</b> and confident  <b>Minor shift in stance</b>  <b>Establishes natural eye contact</b> with <b>everyone</b> in the room during the presentation.	<b>Mostly</b> stands up straight  <b>Shifts</b> stance 2-3 times  1-2 episodes of <b>fidgeting</b> with objects (hair, clothes, etc.)  <b>Establishes natural eye contact</b> with <b>many</b> in the room during the presentation.	<b>Shifts</b> stance <b>several</b> times  Several episodes of <b>fidgeting</b> with objects (hair, clothes, etc.)  <b>Establishes eye contact</b> , but seems “forced”;  Eye contact with <b>mostly the teacher</b> during the presentation.	<b>Hunches</b> over “notes”  <b>Fidgets</b> with objects (hair, clothes, etc.) most of the time  <b>Very little to no eye contact</b> during the presentation. (simple glancing up from notes)	<b>Shifts</b> stance to the point of <b>swaying</b>  <b>Fidgets</b> with objects (hair, clothes, etc.) to the point of distraction  “Notes” held up in front of face  <b>Simply reads</b> from “notes”
Voice	<b>Voice is loud and clear</b> enough to be heard easily by <b>all</b> audience members throughout the presentation.  (Uses a <b>conversational</b> voice that is easy to hear and understand)	<b>Voice is loud and clear</b> enough to be heard by most audience members  May have <b>1-2 lapses</b> in clarity; speaks a bit <b>too fast</b> or <b>too softly</b>	<b>Voice is loud and clear</b> enough to be heard by many audience members  May have <b>3-4 lapses</b> in clarity; speaks <b>too fast</b> or <b>too softly</b>  Presentation is <b>difficult to follow</b> at points	<b>Voice often too soft to be easily understood</b> by many audience members  Presentation is <b>difficult to follow</b>	<b>Voice is too soft to be heard</b> by audience members; speaks <b>too fast</b> to be understood; <b>mumbles</b>
Props (Extra Credit)	<b>+10% (2 points):</b> Well done and made reference to during Book Talk  <b>Appropriate background, clear picture</b> of book, and <b>font choice(s)</b> support the book; <b>background faded</b>  <b>All required information</b> on the slide  <b>Only notes</b> , no sentences or paragraphs  <b>NO mistakes</b>		<b>–points for any of the following</b> <b>Partially completed; missing information</b>  <b>Background missing</b> or not faded, picture of book <b>distorted/missing</b> , font difficult to read  <b>Sentences or paragraphs</b> used  <b>ANY MISTAKES</b> ( <i>grammar, spelling, formatting, clarity, etc.</i> )  <b>Title mistakes</b> (not underlined, not capitalized correctly, misspelled)		

<p><b>VOCABULARY (10 points)</b></p> <p><i>Points will be deducted as follows:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-1 point for each “vocabulary word” missing [10 required]</li> <li>- ¼ point for each missing sentence from the reading where the word was found</li> <li>- ¼ point for each missing or incorrect definition</li> <li>- ¼ point for each missing page number</li> <li>-1 point for each word that is illegible (If I can’t read the word, I don’t know what you’re defining.)</li> </ul>	<p><b>CELL PHONE (10 points)</b></p> <p><i>Points will be deducted as follows:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 2 points for each missing part/section</li> <li>- ¼ - 1½ points for missing/incorrect explanations (include good detail from the story)</li> <li>- ½ -5 points for sloppiness (If I can’t read it, I can’t grade it.)</li> <li>- ¼ to ½ point per improper punctuation, spelling, and grammar (each instance)</li> </ul>
<p><b>ADVICE COLUMN (10 points)</b></p> <p><i>Points will be deducted as follows:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 2½ points for each missing letter</li> <li>- 1-2 points for each letter less than 5 sentences long (include good detail from the story)</li> <li>- ½ point for each missing part per letter (from the bulleted points above)</li> <li>- ½ -2 points for sloppiness per letter (If I can’t read it, I can’t grade it.)</li> <li>- ¼ to ½ point per improper punctuation, spelling, and grammar (each instance)</li> </ul>	<p><b>BOOK JACKET (10 points)</b></p> <p><i>Points will be deducted as follows:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-2 points for missing/incorrect title and author</li> <li>-1½ points for non-original or inappropriate picture/design</li> <li>-1½ points for non-original or incomplete book summary</li> <li>-1½ points for non-original or incomplete note about the author</li> <li>-1½ points for missing/incorrect “other” piece</li> <li>- ½ -5 point(s) for incorrect spelling, punctuation, grammar</li> <li>- ½ -3 point(s) for sloppiness, too much blank space, out of alignment, lack of or inappropriate color, etc.</li> </ul>
<p><b>ADVERTISEMENTS (10 points)</b></p> <p><i>Points will be deducted as follows:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-2 ½ points for each missing/inappropriate advertisement [4 required]</li> <li>- ½ point for each missing piece of information (the name of the company/establishment; name of service or good; pictures/graphics; an address or phone number for the company/establishment; possibly the cost of the good/service; appropriate color)</li> <li>- ¼ point for incorrect spelling, punctuation, grammar (per instance)</li> <li>- ½ -1 point for sloppiness per advertisement</li> </ul>	<p><b>COMIC STRIP (10 points)</b></p> <p><i>Points will be deducted as follows:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-1 point for each missing/incorrect frame [minimum of 10]</li> <li>- ¼ point for each missing/incorrect/inappropriate title/speech bubbles OR incorrect written representation</li> <li>- ¼ point for missing/incorrect part of plot (exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, resolution)</li> <li>- ½ point for each frame without color or with incorrect color (according to text)</li> <li>- ¼ - ½ point for each instance of incorrect spelling, punctuation, or grammar</li> <li>- ½ - 5 point(s) for sloppiness (the more difficult time I have determining what you drew and wrote due to sloppiness, the more points lost)</li> </ul>
<p><b>EXTRA CREDIT</b></p> <p>+up to 1 E.C. point for illustrating <i>or</i> using vocab in figurative language correctly</p> <p>+up to 1 E.C. point for a Wordle</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– More important words/phrases bigger</li> <li>– At least 10 words/phrases</li> </ul>	<p><b>MAP (10 points)</b></p> <p><i>Points will be deducted as follows:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-1 points for each missing event [minimum of 10 events]</li> <li>- ¼ point for each missing/incorrect title</li> <li>- ¼ point for each missing/incorrect part of plot</li> <li>- ½ point for each missing/incorrect description/explanation</li> <li>- ½ -2 point(s) for incorrect spelling, punctuation, grammar</li> <li>- ½ -5 point(s) for sloppiness, lack of/inappropriate color, poor spacing (the more difficult time I have determining what you drew and wrote due to sloppiness, the more points lost)</li> </ul>



**THEMES/MOTIFS**

(Word the book is about for the Book Talk)

Alienation	Family
Betrayal	First love
Change vs. Tradition	Good vs. Evil
Circle of Life	Heroism
Coming of Age	Hope
Communication	Individualism
Conflicting Values	Isolation (physical or emotional)
Conformity	Journey
Courage/Bravery (choose one)	Judgment
Dangers of Ignorance	Justice
Darkness & Light	Life after Loss
Deception/Lying (choose one)	Loss
Destruction of Beauty	Love
Discovery	Patriotism
Duty	Power
Escape from Family Pressure	Rebellion
Evils of Racism/Prejudice (choose one)	Simplicity
Facing Reality	Suffering
Fading Beauty	Survival
Faith vs. Doubt	War/Peace

**Genres**

- ☞ **Drama**—Stories composed in verse or prose, usually for theatrical performance, where conflicts and emotion are expressed through dialogue and action.
- ☞ **Fairy Tale**—Story about fairies or other magical creatures, usually for children.
- ☞ **Fantasy**—Fiction with strange or other worldly settings or characters; fiction which invites suspension of reality.
- ☞ **Fiction**—Narrative literary works whose content is produced by the imagination and is not necessarily based on fact.
- ☞ **Historical Fiction**—Story with fictional characters and events in a historical setting.
- ☞ **Horror**—Fiction in which events evoke a feeling of dread in both the characters and the reader.
- ☞ **Mystery**—Fiction dealing with the solution of a crime or the unraveling of secrets.
- ☞ **Mythology**—Legend or traditional narrative, often based in part on historical events, that reveals human behavior and natural phenomena by its symbolism; often pertaining to the actions of the gods.
- ☞ **Science Fiction**—Story based on impact of actual, imagined, or potential science, usually set in the future or on other planets.
- ☞ **Biography/Autobiography**—Narrative of a person's life, a true story about a real person.
- ☞ **Nonfiction**—Informational text dealing with an actual, real-life subject.