

Reader's Notebook

We will have time each class period to read independently – this means you will get the chance to choose your own reading material. You will need to come to class each day with a book to read and your reader's notebook. You may keep your notebook in the classroom (in the appropriate bin!) if you would like. Your reading goal for the year is 30 books. Any books over 350 pages will count as TWO books, but no more than two books.

In addition to reading 30 books, you will be keeping a reader's notebook. You will need a notebook dedicated to just this (a small spiral notebook will work perfectly), or you may also use a binder. If you think you will have difficulty getting a notebook in time, please see me privately. Your notebook will be divided into four sections:

Section I: Tally List

This will include columns for genre requirements and the number of titles you've completed in each section. See example below:

Genre Requirement	# Required	# Completed	Teacher Sign-Off
Poetry Collection (10+ poems in one book)	2		
Realistic/Historical Fiction	5		
Traditional Literature (Classics)	3		
Science Fiction/Fantasy	3		
Mystery	3		
Nonfiction	2		
Reader's Choice	12		

Section II: Reading List

Here you will record all titles you've read or attempted and abandoned.

Each entry should include: Title, Author, Date Started, Date Finished, Difficulty, Rating (1-5)

See example below:

Title	Author	Date Started	Date Finished	Difficulty	Rating
Tuesdays With Morrie	Mitch Albom			Easy/Normal	5
If I Stay	Gayle Forman			Medium	5
Pride & Prejudice	Jane Austen			Difficult	4

Section III: Books-to-Read List

Plan for future reading (sequels yet to be published, books recommended by peers, teachers, books previewed, etc.)

Here you will create a list of book titles and authors of books you plan to read. The list needs to be constantly growing and will hopefully eventually contain books that have been crossed out.

See example below:

1. Gone With the Wind by Margaret Mitchell
2. Divergent by Veronica Roth

Section N: Response Entries

Here you will reflect personal reactions to the books you read and on the author's writing. I will respond to each journal entry.

1 entry per week. Begin each entry with: Dear Mrs. Young, or something as polite

An ideal entry will have two paragraphs: the first paragraph containing plot summary and the second paragraph containing your thoughts/opinions.

For the second paragraph, you may choose a few of the following for your response (If you can't think of anything to write):

- ❖ I noticed...
- ❖ I wonder...
- ❖ I think...
- ❖ I was reminded of...
- ❖ I'm surprised that...
- ❖ I'd like to know...
- ❖ I realized...
- ❖ If I were...
- ❖ The central issue(s) here is (are)...
- ❖ One consequence of ____ could be...
- ❖ If ____, then...
- ❖ I'm not sure...
- ❖ Although it seems...
- ❖ The author's purpose is...
- ❖ Discuss character complexity or development
- ❖ Discuss development of theme, plot, or conflict
- ❖ If this book had gone one more chapter, what could have happened?
- ❖ Evaluate the ending.

Checklist: make sure to include the following elements in your entry/letter:

Date; "Dear Mrs. Young" or similar greeting; a salutation (Hello, How are you, etc.); short summary of where you are in the story; personal reflection, comments, and/or questions about the story; closing; name.

Section V: Book Reviews

Each quarter you will have to complete two book reviews on your choice of books (any that you've completed by the end of the quarter). These may be turned in via Edmodo at any time as long as they're received by the end of each quarter.

Final Reader's Notebook Grade:

Section 1 = 25 points	Tally List – Genre Requirement (if you've covered them all, you're good)
Section 2 = 25 points	Tally List (if you've kept this up to day, you're good)
Section 3 = 25 points	To-Read List (if this is present and has grown throughout the course)
Section 4 = 25 points	Reader Responses (if you've turned all of these in...)

Total = 100 points