Independent Novel Study – V.2.0

Getting Started:

In order to get started on this novel study, you need to choose a book that is at your reading level. Once you’ve selected a book to your liking, you must have your book approved by your teacher. This is done to make sure that your selected book meets the assignment’s requirements.

Please fill in the form below.

I, ____________________________________ (your name), would like to read _____________________
____________________________________________________________________________
(book title)
for my independent novel study. I have not read this book before, and look forward to using it to complete the assignments in this study.

Signed: _________________________________________ (your signature)
Signed: _________________________________________ (teacher’s signature)

Time Management:

Congratulations, you’ve managed to select a book. Now we must set up a schedule for you to follow to make sure you are able to successfully meet each of the assignment’s requirements on the dates they are due. Be sure to use the guide below to help you manage your time effectively.

Student Reading Guide:

Name of Book: __________________________________________________________
Start Date: ________________
End Date: ________________
Total Days: __________
Number of Chapters/Pages: ______
Daily Reading: _________ ÷ _________ = _________

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Created/Compiled by Greg White
Reading Activities

Part One: Vocabulary

Find three words that you are not familiar with, or find interesting within your book. Record these words on a piece of paper and write an explanation of each term in your own words. You may want to find a way to present this information creatively.

Eg. Retrospective - to look back at an event that has already occurred.

Part Two: Chapter Summary Activities

Many of the activities listed below require a significant amount of writing. For each activity that involves writing, you should follow the writing process to create an outline of what you need to say is created. You should be able to produce your outlines and rough drafts if your teacher asks to see them. Failure to do so may result in a deduction of marks.

Activity One:
Imagine there’s a book that was written prior to the one you’ve just read. Think about what this book might be called, and what the story’s plot would be about. Design a book jacket for the book on a piece of blank white paper (please don’t fold it). Make sure your book jacket also contains a descriptive piece of writing that explains what this book might be about.

Activity Two:
Using a detailed paragraph or two, explain why you chose to read the book you did. It is your job to persuade others that you’ve made a good choice.

Activity Three:
Look through the previous chapters you have read and see if you can find examples of the following:

a) Adjective x 2  
b) Adverb x 2  
c) Simile  
d) Metaphor  
e) Personification  
f) Onomatopoeia  
g) Hyperbole  
h) Alliteration

*if you can’t find something for all of these literary devices in what you’ve read so far, then use the upcoming chapters to do so.
Activity Four:
Create a sketch of one of the characters or a setting you’ve been introduced to in the book. Color in your sketch using watercolor paints. Your artwork should fill the page, and you should make attempts to show light, shading, texture, etc.

Activity Five:
Create a newspaper/magazine advertisement for something interesting in the book. You must include the following:

a) Name of product.
b) An original logo for the product.
c) A slogan for the product.
d) A short persuasive paragraph to encourage people to purchase the product.
e) A creative layout for the advertisement where the product is shown.
f) Your advertisement must be colorful.

eg. Winnie the Pooh’s honey pot

Activity Six:
Create the front page of a newspaper. Your page should include the following sections of information.

a) Name of Newspaper
b) Cover story about something that has happened in your book that might be newsworthy. If nothing has happened, make something up.
c) A weather report.

Activity Seven:
By now you have come across at least one interesting setting in your book. Write a descriptive piece of writing that describes one of the settings presented in your book, and explain how this setting was important to the story.

Activity Eight:
Authors go to great lengths to create a sense of mood in the books they write. The term mood refers to how the book makes you feel as you read it. Finger painting is messy, but it sure can be fun. It is your job to use your fingers to create an abstract painting that communicates the overall mood of the book you’ve just read to those viewing your artwork. Please attach a small description of what the mood is you are conveying.

Eg. Sad - use darker colors with droopy strokes.
Activity Nine:
Create a Venn diagram where you compare at least two things, from your book (you may wish to compare something other than characters; you may also compare yourself to something from your book). Try to come up with 10 unique points for each part of your Venn diagram. Find a creative way to present your Venn diagram on a piece of blank white paper.
   eg. Harry Potter vs. Artemis Foul

Activity Ten:
A resume is a detailed summary of a person’s experiences in life, school, and the workforce. Create a resume for one of the characters in your novel. In your resume you should have the following areas included:
   a) Name and Personal Information
   b) Personal Goals
   c) Education
   d) Employment History
   e) Volunteer Work
   f) Interests and Activities
   g) References (people to speak on your behalf)
   * see sample outline for layout option

Activity Eleven:
A theme is an idea or message that an author tries to communicate to their readers. Reflect on what you’ve read and see if you can identify any of the themes your author has written about. Write several paragraphs where you explain the following:
   a) How was the theme addressed in the story?
   b) Did the author do a good job addressing this theme?
   * Make sure you support your writing with examples from the text.

Activity Twelve:
Imagine that the book you are reading has just been selected by Hollywood to be made into a movie. You have been asked to put together the movie’s soundtrack. Think of a song that would be suitable for this movie. The Hollywood executives would like to know why you think the song you’ve selected is appropriate. Write a paragraph that includes the following:
   a) Explanation of how the song can relate to the movie (themes, characters, storyline, mood).
   b) How do lyrics relate to the story.
Activity Thirteen:
Choose a character from the story and write a personal diary for them using the events that occurred throughout the story. Your written work should provide details from the story, as well as an emotional response where you tell the readers how these events made you feel. Each day should represent one event, and you should have a minimum of two events.

Activity Fourteen:
Write a poem that relates to what you have read so far. This might include a theme, a character, a setting, a quality possessed by someone in the story. Have fun as you write a minimum of 12 lines in your poem and provide an illustration for the poem you've just written. Your poem does not need to rhyme, but it does need to have a rhythm. (*think about how each line is displayed within your poem as it will help readers figure out the rhythm).

Day Fifteen:
Write a book review where you comment on the following:
(Each topic should be a paragraph)

a) Quality of Story – what made it a good story?
b) Quality of Writing – was the book well written?
c) Recommendation – would you recommend the book to others?
d) Anything else you might want to include.

Note:
All assignments need to be completed by their assigned date. Assignments need to be placed in your binder/notebook, in the order that they appear in the outline.

Please make sure that all of your work is your “Personal Best.”

Be proud of your abilities and “show them off.”
Bethany Butler
321 Eagle Road
Winnipeg, MB R2N 2V9
Canada

Personal Goals:
It is my desire to...
   a) state what you want to do with your life.
   b) why it is important to you,
   c) what skills you currently possess that will make this possible.

Education:
Hillcrest High School, Winnipeg, Manitoba
September 2005 – June 2009
(Graduated with Honors)

Employment History:
2009 – Present  The Buy More, Winnipeg, MB
   Salesperson
   • Provided customers with information pertaining to merchandise.
   • Attended workshops that dealt with new products our store’s selling.
   • Awarded salesperson of the year.

2005 – 2008  Babysitter
   • Ensured the safety of the children I was caring for.
   • Prepared food for the children.
   • Changed diapers.

Volunteer Work:
2006 – Present  Sunday School Teacher
   • Taught Sunday School to 11 children between the ages of 6-8.
   • Followed an approved curriculum.
   • Developed meaningful relationships with the children I taught.

Interests and Activities:
In my spare time, I enjoy doing the following:
   a) What do you enjoy doing for fun?
   b) Why do you enjoy these activities?

References:
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