

**Independent Novel Study Project**  
**Marking Period 1 Schedule**

Student Task:	Deadline:	Complete/Incomplete:
Choose a book to read	September 11	
Reading contract must be signed by parent/guardian	September 14	
Read 1/6 of the book Journal Entry #1 Due	September 21	
Read 1/3 of the book Journal Entry #2 Due	September 28	
Read 1/2 of the book Journal Entry #3 Due	October 5	
Read 2/3 of the book Journal Entry #4 Due	October 13	
Read 5/6 of the book Journal Entry #5 Due	October 19	
Complete reading book Journal Entry #6 Due	October 26	
Final project Due	November 6	

## Independent Novel Study Expectations

**Choosing a Novel:** Every marking period you will be required to choose one novel to read for class. You must bring this novel with you to class every day and are expected to be reading in class if you finish early with other assignments. Novels should be appropriate for your grade level and should be at least 100 pages in length. This is your chance to read the type of book YOU WANT, so choose a book you'll enjoy.

**Reading Contract:** You will sign a reading contract for every marking period to establish your reading goals and so your parents can see/approve what you are reading.

**Journaling:** You will write six journal entries in your composition books throughout the marking period. Every response should demonstrate an in-depth reflection of your reading. First, determine the number of pages in your book, then divide that by six—this will give you the number of pages you need to read for every journal entry. (For example: if my book is 100 pages, I will write a journal entry roughly every 16 pages).

**Journal Requirements:** Entries must be one full page in length; include the title of the book at the top, and record the page numbers you are journaling about. What do I write about? Personal, insightful thoughts about the novel. Reflect on things like characters' actions, motives, and personalities; any questions you have; predictions and favorite parts. You can include a brief summary of the pages, but your entries should mostly consist of your experience reading the novel and any criticisms/praises you have.

**Project:** Each marking period you will complete a final project that corresponds with the novel you read. There are 8 options available and you must choose a different project each marking period. There are different requirements for each, so do not forget to take a rubric that breaks down how you can earn the maximum amount of points. Below are just brief descriptions of your options:

**Option 1:** Create a slideshow presentation using Google Slides, PowerPoint, or Prezi that includes a summary of your independent novel. Present your slideshow to the class.

**Option 2:** Create an original movie poster that advertises a hypothetical film based on your novel. Choose famous actors and actresses to play the parts of the characters and identify who you think they should play. Present your work to the class.

**Option 3:** Create the front page of a newspaper that features a main event from your novel. Who, what, where, when, why, and how. Illustrate an image on the poster.

**Option 4:** Create an illustrated timeline that displays important events in your novel chronologically.

**Option 5:** Create a (pretend) social media account profile on a poster for a character in your novel. Present your work to the class.

**Option 6:** Invent a cereal that is related to the plot of your book. On the back of the box, write a one paragraph summary that describes the main problem and the solution of the book.

**Option 7:** Write a letter to the author that will actually be sent! Let him or her know your thoughts.

**Option 8:** Create an art mobile that displays five important details regarding your book and include a matching key. Present your art to the class.

## Reading Contract Language Arts

Full Name \_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_

Book Title \_\_\_\_\_

Author's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Genre \_\_\_\_\_ Marking Period \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Pages \_\_\_\_\_ Divide Number by 6 (round up) \_\_\_\_\_

I, \_\_\_\_\_, will read my novel for this marking period's  
(print your name)

independent novel study. I will write a journal entry every \_\_\_\_\_ pages.  
(total number of pages divided by 6)

to record my thoughts and ideas. I will bring my novel to Language Arts class every day.

**This project is worth a total of 165 points:**

- Reading Contract: 5 Points
- Journal Entries: 60 points (10 points each)
- Final Project: 100 points

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## **Book Recommendations**

### **Disney Inspired:**

Beastly by Alex Flinn (Beauty and the Beast)  
Descendants: The Isle of the Lost by Melissa de la Cruz (multiple)  
Cinder (The Lunar Chronicles) by Marissa Meyer (Cinderella)  
Of Poseidon by Anna Banks (The Little Mermaid)  
The Wrath and the Dawn by Renée Ahdieh (Aladdin)  
Heart of Dread (Series) by Melissa de la Cruz and Michael Johnston (Frozen)

### **Spooky/Mysterious Stories:**

Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children (Series) by Ransom Riggs  
Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde by Robert Louis Stevenson  
A Curious Tale of the In-Between by Lauren DeStefano  
Once Upon a Zombie: The Color of Fear by Billy Phillips  
The Graveyard Book by Neil Gaiman  
Cold Case by Julia Platt Leonard  
Pretty Little Liars by Sara Shepard  
Warm Bodies by Isaac Marion  
Undead Girl Gang by Lily Anderson

### **Fantasy/Adventure/Sci-Fi:**

Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief (Series) by Rick Riordan  
The Heroes of Olympus (Sequel Series to Percy Jackson) by Rick Riordan  
The Mortal Instruments (Series) by Cassandra Clare  
The Eighth Day (Series) by Dianne K. Salem  
Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone (Series) by J.K. Rowling  
Harry Potter and the Cursed Child (Sequel to HP Series) by J.K. Rowling  
Deep Blue (Waterfire Saga/Series) by Jennifer Donnelly  
The Hobbit by J.R.R. Tolkien  
Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy by Douglas Adams  
The Eye of Minds (Series) by James Dashner  
Shiver (The Wolves of Mercy Falls trilogy) by Maggie Stiefvater  
Ender's Game (Series) by Orson Scott Card

### **Dystopian:**

The Hunger Games (Series) by Suzanne Collins  
The Maze Runner (Series) by James Dashner  
Divergent (Series) by Veronica Roth  
The Uglies (Series) by Scott Westerfeld  
The Giver by Lois Lowry  
Winger by Jerry Spinelli  
Gossamer by Lois Lowry  
Shatter Me by Tahereh Mafi

### **John Green Books:**

Looking for Alaska  
Paper Towns  
The Fault in Our Stars  
An Abundance of Katherines  
Will Grayson, Will Grayson  
Let it Snow  
Turtles All the Way Down

## **Book Recommendations**

### **Romance:**

If I Stay by Gayle Forman  
PS. I Like You by Kasie West  
Twilight (Series) by Stephanie Meyers  
Midnight Sun by Stephenie Meyer  
Under the Never Sky (Series) by Veronica Rossi  
Eleanor & Park by Rainbow Rowell  
To All the Boys I've Loved Before by Jenny Han  
Everything, Everything by Nicola Yoon

### **Sports:**

Fast Break by Mike Lupica  
The Crossover by Kwame Alexander  
The Walk On (Triple Threat Series) by John Feinstein  
Change-up: Mystery at the World Series by John Feinstein  
Million Dollar Throw by Mike Lupica  
Heat by Mike Lupica  
Pop by Gordon Korman  
Travel Team by Mike Lupica  
Ice Magic by Matt Christopher  
True Legend by Mike Lupica  
The Big Field by Mike Lupica  
The Underdogs by Mike Lupica

### **Non-fiction:**

I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings by Maya Angelou  
War Dogs: Tales of Canine Heroism, History, and Love by Rebecca Frankel  
I Am Malala by Malala Yousafzai  
Chasing Lincoln's Killer by James L. Swanson  
Witches: The Absolutely True Tale of Disaster in Salem by Rosalyn Schanzer  
The Nazi Hunters: How a Team of Spies and Survivors Captured the World's Most Notorious Nazi by Neal Bascomb  
Almost Astronauts: 13 Women Who Dared to Dream by Tanya Lee Stone  
Soul Surfer by Bethany Hamilton  
The Lions of Little Rock by Kristin Levine  
Hidden Figures by Margot Lee Shetterly  
The Boys Who Challenged Hitler by Phillip Hoose  
She Said Yes: The Unlikely Martyrdom of Cassie Bernall by Misty Bernall  
Foxcatcher: The True Story of My Brother's Murder, John du Pont's Madness, and the Quest for Olympic Gold by David Thomas and Mark Schultz  
The Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank

### **Young Adult Books/Realistic Fiction:**

The Red Pony by John Steinbeck  
The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton  
Pay it Forward (Young Readers Edition) by Catherine Ryan Hyde  
Stargirl by Jerry Spinelli  
Becoming Naomi Leon by Pam Munoz Ryan  
Towers Falling by Jewell Parker Rhodes  
Autumn Falls by Bella Thorne

Nothing but the Truth by Avi  
That Was Then, This is Now by S.E. Hinton

### **Book Recommendations**

#### **Young Adult Books/Realistic Fiction Continued:**

Thirteen Reasons Why by Jay Asher  
The Perks of Being a Wallflower by Stephen Chbosky  
The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time by Mark Haddon  
The Absolute True Diary of a Part-time Indian by Sherman Alexie  
Speak by Laurie Halse Anderson  
The Skin I'm In by Sharon Flake  
Monster by Walter Dean Myers  
Number the Stars by Lois Lowry  
It's Kind of a Funny Story by Ned Vizzini  
The Spectacular Now by Tim Tharp  
Little Women by Louisa May Alcott  
Go Ask Alice by Beatrice Sparks (Originally published by Anonymous)  
Sam & Ilsa's Last Hurrah by Rachel Cohn and David Levithan  
Wonder by R. J. Palacio  
This Is Where It Ends by Marieke Nijkamp  
The Watsons Go to Birmingham by Christopher Paul Curtis  
The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas  
All American Boys by Jason Reynolds  
The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas by John Boyne  
Hatchet by Gary Paulsen  
A Dog's Purpose by W. Bruce Cameron

## Presentation Rubric

## Independent Novel Study

**Directions:** Create a presentation using Google Slides, PowerPoint, or Prezi and present your slideshow to the class.

### **Requirements:**

- 5 Points Introduction slide: Slide 1 - include your name, novel title, author of novel
- 65 Points Quality of Content. Your presentation should contain at least 6 slides in total (including introduction slide). See below for specifics.
- 5 Points Proper grammar, spelling, usage, and mechanics
- 10 Points Include at least two images throughout the slideshow
- 15 Points Oral presentation: Make sure to speak clearly, make eye contact with the audience, and avoid reading directly from your slides

### **Content**

**For Fiction Novels:** Slide 2: major plot details; Slide 3: conflicts in the story; Slide 4: a main character list complete with physical & personality descriptions; Slide 5: specific details about the setting; Slide 6: your favorite quote or part of the book with an explanation of why it's your favorite.

**For Nonfiction Novels:** Slide 2: Include the main idea and plot of the book; Slide 3: a main character list and each person's significance to the story; Slide 4: a description of the setting; Slide 5: ten facts you learned from the book; Slide 6: a book review complete with 1-5 star rating and why.

**Total Points: 100 Points**

## Movie Poster Rubric

## Independent Novel Study

**Directions:** Create an original movie poster that advertises a hypothetical film based on your novel. Do not replicate a pre-existing movie poster if there is already a film for your novel—that means choose different actors and actresses too.

### **Requirements:**

- 5 Points Movie title (should be in large print and stand out)
- 5 Points Include one quote from the novel (don't forget quotation marks)
- 20 Points List the cast. Choose famous actors and actresses and identify who you think they should play. Include at least 5 characters.
- 35 Points Brief summary of "film" (the novel). Must be a minimum of 5 sentences. Do not spoil the ending. Remember, you are trying to get people to see the film so you want your summary to be intriguing.
- 5 Points Proper grammar, spelling, usage, and mechanics
- 20 Points Creativity and visual representation
- 5 Points Must be on poster board
- 5 Points Must present to class

**Total Points: 100 Points**



**Newspaper Article Rubric****Independent Novel Study**

**Directions:** Create the front page of a newspaper that features a main event from your novel. For example: if you were using the story Cinderella, you might say "Mysterious Glass Slipper Left Abandoned on Staircase at the Ball!" and the title of the Newspaper could be "Disney Times".

**Requirements:**

5 Points	Newspaper title
5 Points	Intriguing article title
10 Points	Setting (When and Where)
10 Points	Characters involved (Who)
30 Points	Clear explanation of a specific event with details (What, How, and Why) in paragraph form
10 Points	Must be at least 10 sentences
5 Points	Proper grammar, spelling, usage, and mechanics
10 Points	Minimum of one picture/illustration that corresponds with the article
5 Points	Must be on poster board
5 Points	Include author of article (your name)
5 Points	Newspaper format (third-person objective point-of-view)

**Total Points: 100 Points****Illustrated Timeline Rubric****Independent Novel Study**

**Directions:** Create an illustrated timeline showing important events from the book.

**Requirements:**

5 Points	Must be on poster board
5 Points	Title your timeline
50 Points	Choose at least 10 important events from the story (5 points each). The events must be listed in the order in which they occurred.
20 Points	Write a brief description of each event, 1-2 sentences each. (2 points each)
15 Points	Must draw/color or print out an illustration for at least 5 of the events
5 Points	Proper grammar, spelling, usage mechanics

**Total Points: 100 Points**



**Social Media Rubric****Independent Novel Study**

**Directions:** Create a pretend social media account (on a poster) for one of the characters in your novel. You can choose from Snapchat, Twitter, Facebook, or Instagram.

20 Points	Creativity and organization (use colors)
5 Points	Must be on poster board
65 Points	Content (see below). This will vary based on the social media you use. Make sure you include the full name of the character you are choosing to portray.
10 Points	Present project to class

**Content:**Snapchat

- A short biography with profile photo
- Create a story of at least 8 photos with captions for each picture

Twitter

- A short biography with profile photo
- Create a fun username
- At least 10 tweets—and use hashtags!

Facebook

- A short biography with profile photo
- At least 5 timeline posts
- At least 3 “friends” from novel with photos

Instagram

- A short biography with profile photo
- At least 4 photos with captions
- At least 1 comment per post (from other characters)

**Total Points: 100 Points**

**Cereal Box Rubric****Independent Novel Study**

**Directions:** Invent a cereal that is related to the plot of your book and decorate the outside of an actual cereal box (you do not need to fill it with actual pieces though).

**Requirements:**

10 Points	Come up with an original cereal name. Do not use the exact title of the book.
50 Points	Creativity and visual presentation. Choose a shape for the cereal pieces as well as colors and ingredients that all relate to the book. You are not actually creating the cereal pieces, but just illustrating an image of the cereal on the box. Some students have included kids' prizes and puzzle games to make it look authentic.
20 Points	On the back of the box, write a one paragraph summary that describes the main problem and the solution of the book. (Must be at least 6 complete sentences)
5 Points	Proper grammar, spelling, usage and mechanics
5 Points	Minimum of one picture/illustration on the box
5 Points	Must be on a cereal box
5 Points	On one of the sides, make sure to include the real title of the book & the author

**Total Points: 100 Points**

**Letter to the Author Rubric****Independent Novel Study**

**Directions:** Write a letter to the author of your novel that shows your response to the story. Put your letter in a marked envelope (not sealed), and if the author is still alive, we can actually send your letter!

- |           |  |
|-----------|--|
| 40 points | Include all 5 elements of a friendly letter in the correct location/format. (Date, greeting, body, salutation, & signature)  |
| 10 Points | Tell him/her your opinion of the book with explanations  |
| 10 Points | Describe the character in the book you are most similar to and why   |
| 10 Points | Explain your favorite part of the book   |
| 10 Points | Include at least 2 questions you have about the book   |
| 10 Points | Needs to be at least 10 sentences  |
| 5 Points  | Include an addressed envelope with a return address (you can use the school's address) & the author's address. (Check the back of the book or author's web site for author's address. You may also send the letter directly to the publisher, which should be on the copyright page of the book.) No stamp needed. |
| 5 Points  | Proper, grammar, usage and spelling  |

**Total Points: 100 Points**

PREVIEW

NOT FOR EDUCATIONAL USE

**Art Mobile Rubric****Independent Novel Study**

**Directions:** Create an art mobile using items related to the story. A mobile is an abstract sculpture that has moving parts, just like a wind chime or what hangs above a baby's crib in a nursery. If you still can't picture it, research "art mobile" on Google images.

- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| 35 Points | Select at least 5 items that symbolize people, places, events, or other parts of the book and hang them from a hanger or rod using string or yarn. You may create the hanging items artistically from any materials, or you may use pre-made objects. |
| 30 Points | Neatness, creativity, and mobile is functional  |
| 30 Points | Write a key that explains every object in the mobile using at least two sentences each. (write the key on a separate piece of paper with your name)   |
| 5 Points  | Present your mobile to the class  |

**Total Points: 100 Points**

PREVIEW

NOT FOR EDUCATIONAL USE