

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

PREVIEW

NOT FOR EDUCATIONAL USE

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.

PREVIEW

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.

NOT FOR EDUCATIONAL USE

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.

NOT FOR EDUCATIONAL USE

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.

PREVIEW

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.

NOT FOR EDUCATIONAL USE

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.

PREVIEW

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

NOT FOR EDUCATIONAL USE

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 _____

PREVIEW

Author's Name _____

Genre _____

Marking Period _____

NOT FOR EDUCATIONAL USE

Number of Pages _____ Divide Number by 6 (round up) _____

PREVIEW

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.

PREVIEW

This project is worth a total of 165 points:

NOT FOR EDUCATIONAL USE

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

Student Signature _____ Date _____

PREVIEW

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

NOT FOR EDUCATIONAL USE

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 Lightening 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. Salerni
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
Wringer 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

PREVIEW

NOT FOR EDUCATIONAL USE

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

PREVIEW

NOT FOR EDUCATIONAL USE

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

PREVIEW

NOT FOR EDUCATIONAL USE

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

PREVIEW

NOT FOR EDUCATIONAL USE

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

NOT FOR EDUCATIONAL USE

NOT FOR EDUCATIONAL USE

NOT FOR EDUCATIONAL USE

NOT FOR EDUCATIONAL USE

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)

PREVIEW

Total Points: 100 Points

NOT FOR EDUCATIONAL USE

PREVIEW

NOT FOR EDUCATIONAL USE

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

PREVIEW

Total Points: 100 Points

NOT FOR EDUCATIONAL USE

PREVIEW

Total Points: 100 Points

NOT FOR EDUCATIONAL USE

Social Media RubricIndependent 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

PREVIEW

NOT FOR EDUCATIONAL USE

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)

PREVIEW

NOT FOR EDUCATIONAL USE

Total Points: 100 Points

Cereal Box RubricIndependent 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

PREVIEW

NOT FOR EDUCATIONAL USE

Total Points: 100 Points

PREVIEW

NOT FOR EDUCATIONAL USE

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