

3rd and 4th Grade 2016-2017 Book Reports

Dear Parents and Students,

We are going to try this again. ☺ I wanted to do it last year but the timing in the day did not work out. I am hoping this schedule this year will make it successful. We are going to be introducing reading journals to the classroom. The reading journals will be a section of the binder and dividers set that was on the school supply list. We will be using it often, so please make sure you child has the binder, dividers, and paper in order to use it in the classroom almost daily.

I have decided to do a reading journal along with the project based book reports because I would like to encourage regular/frequent free-time reading rather than cramming a book last minute for a single project. The reading journals will have reading goals, a reading log, vocabulary study, and graphic organizers to share important information for each book chosen.

The books will still need to be read during the student's own time but can be a book they have chosen from the classroom or school library. Filling out the journal will be guided by myself at school, especially at first. I do have time scheduled to be checking in with the students to make sure they are indeed reading and filling out their journal regularly, however I would encourage you to be checking in as well so that you are aware of what your student is learning and books/subjects they are interested in.

I do feel that presenting in front of an audience is an important skill. So at the end of each quarter, the students will need to present the project I have available for them to complete. I will provide the materials they need for the project but, again, they will have to complete the project on their own time. On the following page is a list of the projects they will be completing and the date in which it needs to be completed by. We will begin with small reading circles for presentations and eventually working up to presenting to the classroom group. On the back side of that sheet is the rubric I will be using to grade each of the reports.

On the back of this page is a list of novels that I will be using as read alouds to the group and also novels that each grade will be studying together in reading class. I would ask that the students **not** choose one of the books on those lists for their reading journals. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at any time!

In Christ,
Mrs. Plitzuweit

Read Aloud books

Al Capone Does My Shirts by Gennifer Choldenko

Nim's Island by Wendy Orr

Scat by Carl Hiaasen

The Mysterious Benedict Society by Trenton Lee Stewart

Finding Serendipity by Angelica Banks

Novel Study Books

Charlotte's Web by EB White

Loser by Jerry Spinelli

Frindle by Andrew Clements

Cricket in Times Square by George Seldon

Charlie & the Chocolate Factory by Roald Dahl

When You Reach Me by Rebecca Stead

The Tale of Despereaux by Kate DiCamillo

Because of Winn-Dixie by Kate DiCamillo

Dates for book report presentations:

(also listed on the memory treasure & events calendar)

Thursday, October 20

Wednesday, December 21

Wednesday, March 8

Monday, May 22

Book Report Projects

Everyone will do this same project for each of the book reports. This will give us an opportunity to discuss the different parts of a story and make sure they are understood. It will also help have an even “playing field” when presenting. Mrs. Plitzuweit will have all the supplies needed for each project.

Thursday, October 20

Book Sandwiches

Each part of the sandwich will be a different element of the story. The top slice of bread will have the title of the book and author, the next layer will have the main characters, etc. When you put all the pages together it will look like real sandwich! Use your best handwriting and complete sentences.

Wednesday, December 21

Book Tasting!

You will be creating a “tasting menu” for your book. Each pages of the menu will have an element of the book: title, author, setting, main characters, plot, your opinion on the book, etc. We will display each of the menus like they would be in a diner! Use neat handwriting, make it colorful, and have fun with it!

Wednesday, March 8

Book Dodecahedron

Your finished product will be multi-sided figure we will hang from the ceiling. You will need to know the title and author of your book, the main characters, setting, plot, and a few new vocabulary words you learned after reading the book. As always, use your neatest handwriting and make it colorful!

Monday, May 22

Digitize it

You will be putting together a digital presentation for this book report. Mrs. Plitzuweit will give you the link and instructions later in the year. The work can all be done on your chromebook or on your home computer using your school Google account.