

Independent Novel Study

Due Date: Monday, June 1

Greetings, Book Lovers (and others).

Books are, for many of us, as necessary as air to breath and food to eat. They can inspire us and nourish us. They can keep us company when we're lonely and help us find connection to others in discussion. They can open doors to new perspectives, and they can illuminate the human condition and Life's mysteries – in short, books have a magical power to change us.

This term, you will each choose a novel that you will study independently. This novel should be new to you and it should excite you, as you will be spending the next two months exploring it. If you need help selecting a title, talk to Ms. Ho, talk to your local librarians, talk to your friends, talk to me. You will each be responsible for your own study and all your materials should be kept in one place (think big brown envelope, like we have used in the past for bits and pieces of projects).

This project will form the bulk of your mark for Reading this term, and it will also be considered for assessment in Writing and Art (if you choose options with an artistic component to them).

Requirements

- You should let me know that title of your book by **Monday, April 3**
- Your study should contain a **minimum of 15** entries from the list below (maximum 20)
- Your work should be neat, follow proper writing conventions (spelling counts! As does proper use of grammar and punctuation), demonstrate depth and complexity (thick, not thin thinking), and you should be proud of your work on each entry
- You will hand in each entry as you complete it, not all at once at the end
- When assessed entries are returned to you, they should be filed in a duo-tang
- How you want to pace yourself is entirely up to you – you can do it all in a few weeks or space it out until the final due date
- When complete, you will decorate the cover of your duo-tang, creating your own cover for the book (your interpretation, not copied from the version you read – this can be done electronically or by hand), and you will create a table of contents for your work

Tips

- Be an active reader – while reading, take accurate notes in your comp book: write down your thoughts and record the page number in the novel your thoughts correspond to; this can be done in many ways – straight notes, webs, sketchnoting, etc.
- Read with a sense of pliable awareness
- If you find you are getting swept up in the story, read each chapter once for escapist pleasure and a second time for scholarly intent
- Search for the complexities
- Find connections
- Present your information in your own words
- Strive for detail
- Be specific!

Options for Novel Study Entries

	Interesting to Me		Handed In
Beginning	<input type="checkbox"/>	Reasoning – Explain why you chose this novel (please be more detailed than “It looked kinda cool...”)	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	First Impressions – write down (in paragraph form) your first impressions of the novel, early on in your reading	<input type="checkbox"/>
End	<input type="checkbox"/>	Recommendation – explain why you would recommend this book to others (be specific about whom) or why you wouldn’t recommend this book to others	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Title – explain the significance of the title	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Critique – write a professional evaluation and analysis of the book: what did you like, and why? What didn’t work? What was the author trying to say? Did she or he succeed? Was the writing effective? Was the story effective?	<input type="checkbox"/>

Reader Response	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wonder – this is an open entry for you to wonder about anything in the novel (why did the author choose certain aspects? What happens to the characters after the novel ends? etc.) You may do this type of entry multiple times.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Quotes – respond to three quotes from the book	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	I Don't Understand – this is an entry for you to write about what you don't understand. You may do this entry multiple times.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Symbols – reflect on one of the symbols from the novel and its significance	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Turning Point – identify and analyze a major turning point in the novel: what happened before, what happened after, why did it happen, how did it change things?	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Reflect – how does a character or an event in the book help you understand something deeper about yourself, someone else in your life, or a greater truth about the work	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mindset – how does the book relate to our work on mindset? Make connections to items on the class blog mindset tabs and/or things we have done or discussed in class	<input type="checkbox"/>
Character	<input type="checkbox"/>	Feelings – write, or write and draw, about how one character feels about another character	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pictures – draw pictures of what one of the characters would have on their phone's camera or a regular camera, or what they would have made sketches of, if cameras were not invented yet in the story	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Diary – write a diary entry from the point of view of one of the characters	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Letter – write a letter from one character to another	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	iPod Playlist – select songs that you would find on a character's iPod (remember that playlists are usually 10-15 songs long)	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pockets – write a list of what you would find in a character's pockets (or purse or backpack) and then draw those items	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Choices – explain how a choice a character made impacted the story; explain how choosing differently would change the story	<input type="checkbox"/>

Character	<input type="checkbox"/>	Development – choose one character and make a timeline of how he or she (or it) developed over the course of the book	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Motivation – describe the primary motivation of each of the main characters in the book	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wins the Lottery – pick a character and discuss what they would do if they won \$1 000 000. What would she or he spend the money on in the beginning of the book? The middle? The end?	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Found Poetry – imagine you find a poem written by a character in the book. Write it!	<input type="checkbox"/>
Short Story	<input type="checkbox"/>	Perspective – rewrite a section from the book from a different character’s point of view	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Decisions – rewrite a section of the book with one of the characters making a different choice than the one they made – how would that affect the story and the characters?	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Alternate Ending – create another possible (but logical) ending for your novel	<input type="checkbox"/>
Poetry	<input type="checkbox"/>	Haikus – write five (5) haikus inspired by a character (or different characters)	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Devices – find poetic devices (similes, metaphors, imagery) that are used in the novel and explain the importance or relevance to the story	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Concrete – create a concrete poem based on the book or a character in the book	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Free Choice – write a poem in any style about the book, a character, an event in the story, a place in the story, etc.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Connection	<input type="checkbox"/>	Name – explain the significance of a character’s name	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Character – choose a character you connect with and write (or draw) about that connection	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Text-to-Text – write about how this book is similar to another novel you have read	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Text-to-World – explain how events in the book are related to real world events or knowledge	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Song – find a song that connects to the novel in some way; print out the lyrics and explain how this song is connected in your mind to this book	<input type="checkbox"/>

Connection	<input type="checkbox"/>	Place – what place could be connected to this novel? Why?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Creative	<input type="checkbox"/>	Path Sketch – draw the journey of one of the characters	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Song – write a song about the book or one of the characters or a theme in the novel	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Collage – make a Lynda Barry-style collage inspired by the novel or one of the characters or a theme in the novel (see me for examples)	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dance – notate a dance inspired by the novel or one of the characters or a theme in the novel	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Graphic Novel – adapt one of the chapters of the book into graphic novel form	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Free Choice – let me know what you'd like to do and why you'd like to do it	<input type="checkbox"/>

Each entry will be assessed against the following criteria – your final grade will be the average of these assessments:

Communication	Depth and Complexity	Proper Use of Conventions	Precision (in regard to entries containing Art)	Effort
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Considerable reflection • Insight into the material • Big Ideas • Important Details • Rules and Patterns • Ethics • Connections • Rich questions • Use of evidence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spelling • Punctuation • Grammar 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attention to detail • Careful, precise work • Neatness of presentation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstration of pride in one's work • Thoroughness • Attention to detail • Organization

✓+ = My work demonstrates thoroughness, thoughtfulness and attention to detail throughout

✓ = I did everything that was asked of me with some degree of thoroughness, thoughtfulness, and attention to detail

✓- = I skimmed the surface of this aspect

– = I neglected to think about this