

Mr. Smith
Room 217

franksmith@salemk12.org
www.shsenglish.com

Project Details: Bridge Academy - Independent Reading

Project Overview: Each quarter students will be required to select and read a literary work of their choice, in an effort to prepare them to develop a literary criticism of their chosen work. In doing so, students will not only explore the merits of their selected work, but ultimately position themselves to provide both critical and analytical analysis of their chosen novel against the criticisms and reviews of experts in the field.

Project Materials: Independent reading selections are entirely up to the student. Students may select a novel from the available in-class libraries, the IMC, or outside sources such as the public library. Students who wish to purchase a book from outside of any of the available free resources should obtain prior approval from their teacher prior to doing so. While it is perfectly acceptable to change an independent reading selection up to three times during the earliest part of the quarter, it is expected that students will ultimately follow through with their initial selections to remain current with project requirements. Remember, it is alright to like or not like a book, but your ability to justify your feelings is what this project is all about.

Project Time: Students will be provided with regular opportunities to pursue their independent reading projects, however, it is expected that students allocate time outside of the classroom to complete their selected work to remain current with other project requirements. The independent reading project has been designed to closely align with the requirements set forth for students' portfolio projects. Consequently, students will occasionally be required to provide feedback about their chosen text, or perform research-based activities related to their work, during specified portfolio time. In any case, students will need to allocate time outside of class to complete all project requirements.

Project Requirements*: The independent reading project is intended to provide a platform for in-depth critical analysis of a text. In addition to individual reading activities, students will also be required to research and consider criticisms and reviews of their chosen texts in an effort to prepare them to compose their own literary criticism related to the work. The anticipated progression of this project is as follows:

1. Selection of literary work (week one)
2. Independent reading (ongoing)
3. Research of others' literary reviews/critiques (midway)
4. Complete independent reading selection
5. Summary/overview of reading selection
6. Draft annotated bibliography & reflections
7. Draft literary criticism essay
8. Revise literary criticism essay
9. Finalize literary criticism essay for assessment

**Additional information and instructions for this project will be uploaded to the course website as needed.*

Project Assessment: Projects will count toward students' quarterly grades, and will be assessed against a standardized project rubric founded on the principles of the current school-wide rubrics. A copy of the project rubric is available on the course website.

Computer Lab Assignments: Students will regularly utilize the school's computer labs for this project. Students will be assigned to a predetermined computer for the duration of the project, and are expected to abide by the technology use policies outlined in the student handbook when using any and all school technology. Unless otherwise noted, students are not to use headphones or electronic devices during time spent in the computer lab, and to utilize only word processing programs during portfolio time.

#