

Mr. Smith
Room 217

franksmith@salemk12.org
www.shsenglish.com

Portfolio Project: Independent Reading Project - Book Choice

Prompt Overview: The objective of this prompt is to provide a foundation for students to begin thinking critically about the merits of their independent reading selection. This prompt is intended to provide a platform for positioning students to begin the process of developing their literary criticism essays.

Directions: By this point in the term, all students should have selected an independent reading novel, and should be at approximately half way through his/her chosen text. By responding to each of the questions in the prompt below, you will be taking the first step toward demonstrating your ability to think about and discuss your chosen text.

* If you are behind in your reading, you may need to put in some additional time outside of class to catch up. This does not mean, however, that you will be unable to respond to the questions below in order to complete today's activity.

MLA Format is Required: *If you are unsure about what MLA format is, please download and review the "MLA Format Sample Paper" in the "Helpful Links & Tools" section of the website.*

Prompt: Please respond to each of the questions on the next page about your independent reading selection. Your responses should be written in complete sentences, and include elements of the question asked.

▪ Example 1:

If you were asked: *What is the title of your independent reading book?*

Your response should be: *The title of my independent reading is of my book is (book title).*

Your response should NOT be: *It's called (book title).*

▪ Example 2:

If you were asked: *Who is the author of your independent reading book?*

Your response should be: *The author of my independent reading book is (author's name).*

Your response should NOT be: *It's by (author's name).*

**If you are confused about how to respond to any of the questions on the next page, please raise your hand and ask for help. If someone is not able to help you right away, try answering the question on your own while you wait, or simply move on to the next question that you are able to answer.*

Questions: Do your best to answer the questions that follow. Some questions may require you to provide responses longer than just one sentence, so please be as detailed and specific as you are able.

1. What is the title of your independent reading book?
2. Who is the author of your independent reading book?
3. Why did you choose this book (was it the cover, the summary on the back, the reviews, a recommendation from someone, etc.) ?
4. What is your initial reaction to the text (like/dislike, surprised/disappointed, etc.) ?
5. Specifically, why do you feel this way?
6. How does this book compare to other books you have read?
7. Would you recommend this text to someone else? Why?
8. Summarize what you have read up to this point:
 - I. Who is the main character (a.k.a. protagonist)?
 - II. Is there someone that the protagonist has issues with (a.k.a. antagonist)?
 - III. What role does the antagonist play in the story?
 - IV. Is there an issue or problem between the protagonist and antagonist within the story (a.k.a. the conflict)?
 - V. What actions or sequence of events occurred to cause this conflict (a.k.a. the rising action)?
 - VI. What is the result or outcome of the rising action (a.k.a. resolution)?

Save Your Work: Be sure to email a copy of your work to yourself, or save your work to your network file/flash drive to avoid lost documents. There is no excuse for missing work!

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