

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 9 – IDEPENDENT NOVEL ASSIGNMENT

Each student will read a book of his/her choosing and complete an assignment related to the literature. Although class time may be given for reading, **students are expected to read outside of class**. A summary of the novel will be written during class time on a date to be announced.

### Requirements:

1. You may choose any book you wish as long as it is reading level appropriate and not part of the ninth-grade (or earlier) curriculum.
2. First you must decide on a book. Once you have decided on a book, you must let your teacher know by filling out the form provided by the teacher.
3. For the book you choose, you will complete a project outside of class, which must be signed by a parent/guardian. Your project will NOT be evaluated **without a signature**. Forgery of signatures will result in an automatic failing mark.
4. You will receive a list of a wide variety of projects to choose from; however, you must choose a different kind of project for each book.
5. Include the following information on your final project:
  - your full name, date and class
  - title and author of the novel you read
6. Projects will be based on the following;
  - Completed and past in on due date
  - Physical appearance (neatness, organization, color, etc.)
  - Content and detail (To what extent does this project prove to me that you read this book? Does the final product reflect well thought-out ideas and demonstrate your understanding of the novel?)
7. When choosing projects, which involve drawing, you **absolutely** may **NOT** copy from the Internet, photocopy, or trace any pictures of the novel. You **absolutely** may **NOT** copy any pictures found in the novel, or download any pictures from the Internet. This involves no creative thinking on your part whatsoever and will not be given credit.
8. Projects, which require a performance or presentation of some sort such as creating a video, a PowerPoint presentation, or a tape, must be 5-10 minutes in length. Written projects must be at least 3-5 pages in length.
9. Even though certain projects may really appeal to you, remember to make sure the project you choose will work well with the novel you read.
10. You will also be required to write a summary of the book – 1-2 paragraphs.

### NOVEL PROJECTS

**REMEMBER:** Projects which require a performance or presentation of some sort, such as creating a video or audio, need to be between five and ten minutes in length. Written project need to be between three and five pages in length.

Don't forget to have your parent sign your project! Even though certain projects may really appeal to you, remember to make sure the project you choose will work well with the novel you read.

## Independent Novel Assignment Organizer

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**First:** Choose a book

Title:

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Author:

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Publisher:

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Genre: (science fiction, fantasy etc) \_\_\_\_\_

Prior Knowledge: Have you read anything about this topic or by this author before? \_\_\_\_\_

If so, spend a moment thinking about the topic or other books.

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### Choose a project:

#### 1. Children's Story/Picture Book

Turn the novel you read into a children's story by retelling the plot in a simple way with vocabulary appropriate for youngsters. Make sure your creation looks like a children's book, complete with a hard cover, an appealing book jacket with the title and author, and colorful illustrations above and below your writing. Do **NOT** use lined paper and make sure all writing is either typed or written neatly.

#### 2. Write Your Own Scene

Write a scene that could have happened in the book you read, but didn't. Be sure to write in the same style as the author. On a separate page, include a brief explanation of what has occurred up until this point in the novel and give a general description of the characters. Also, explain why you made the changes you did and how they would have affected the outcome. Include a photocopy of two (2) pages before and two (2) pages after where your scene fits in.

#### 3. Rewrite the Ending

If you did not care for the way your book ended, here is your opportunity to change it. Rewrite a new ending to the book you read. Be sure to write in the style of the author. Do **NOT** explain how the ending would be changed. Write as if you were writing the story. On a separate page describe the original ending and the changes you made and then explain why you made these changes. Include a photocopy of the last three pages of the novel you read.

#### 4. Graphic Novel/Comic Book

Create a graphic novel/comic book based on the novel you read. It should have an illustrated cover with the title and author, and be comic book size. Inside, retell the story using dialogue and descriptions of the setting and characters. Put your writing in bubbles. Create colorful illustrations that help tell the story. Make your novel look and read like a comic book or graphic novel.

#### 5. Test

Create a test for the book. Include a variety of kinds of questions such as true/false, multiple choice, matching, short answer, essay, or any other kind of question. Be creative, but you must have a total of fifty (50) questions, one of which must be an essay. There may not be more than fifteen (15) of one

type of question. Make sure you do not ask the same question in two sections or that you are not answering questions already asked. Be sure to write clear directions for each section. **Attach a completed answer key.** (Do this by photocopying or printing out a second copy of the test and filling in your answers on the test). **Your test must be typed.**

## 6. Model of the Setting

If the place where the story takes place is a significant part of the story, create a model of the setting. Create your model either in a large box, on a piece of cardboard or a piece of wood. Be sure to make it as realistic as possible. Include lots of details in your model which demonstrate events that occurred in the novel you read. You may also want to include characters from your novel on the model you create. Label each place. On a piece of paper, write at least a one-page description of the setting and its significance to the rest of the story.

## 7. Map

If the book you read involves a number of locations within a town, country, or geographical area, create a map. First, make a list of all the locations - houses, stores, streets, parks, lakes, etc. mentioned in your novel's setting. Then, draw the map showing a bird's eye view of the area. Label each location. Below the map, create a legend with a list of all the locations and a description of important events that occur at each. Make sure your map has lots of details, is colorful, and large enough to be seen clearly. All writing should be done in black ink or permanent marker. On a piece of paper, write at least a one-page explanation of the map and the events.

## 8. Newspaper

Create a newspaper that is devoted entirely to the book you read. The front page should look as much like a real newspaper as possible with writing in columns, headline, a newspaper title, etc. The newspaper should contain at least four (4) Cape Breton Post pages or two (2) Chronicle Herald pages. You can include a variety of different kinds of features including horoscopes for each character, "Dear Abby" letters, comic strips, news articles, advertisements, personal ads, an obituary section, or anything else you might find in a newspaper. EVERYTHING you include, however, must be based on events and characters in the book you read. **Articles must be typed.**

## 9. Scrapbook

Create a scrapbook for one of the main characters that reflects the many events that occur to him/her in the novel you read. You can include photographs, letters, post cards, telegrams, a family tree, newspaper article clippings, memorial items, or anything else you can think of that you might find in a scrapbook. If you include objects or photographs, be sure to write captions below describing what they are or what's going on and their significance to the character. Create a nice cover for your scrapbook. On the inside, paste an information sheet identifying the full name of the character, his/her age (guess, if you don't know), birth date (if known), where he/she lives, and any other important information.

## 10. Movie Preview/Trailer

The book you have read has just been made into a movie and you have been hired to create an interesting, attention-getting preview that will make moviegoers all across the country want to come to see this new release. Prepare a script, practice, and then videotape short scenes to be used for a preview. Remember previews should not reveal whole scenes, but instead, give us quick glimpses of what the movie is about. Use an attention-getter at the beginning of your preview by having a narrator ask a question, describe a situation, etc. Add appropriate background music which fits the moods or atmosphere of the overall movie. Be sure to videotape an interesting visual design of the title (to be shown at the end of the preview) and mention actors and actresses who star in this feature film. (Turn in the script with this project!)