



Dear Families,

Your children have grown so much during this school year, and they've worked hard to continuously improve their reading skills and strategies. As the end of this school year approaches, we are asking for your assistance to maintain and strengthen your child's reading skills throughout the summer months. As the demands of the school year decrease, summer presents the perfect opportunity for students to continue building their love of reading. Reading **just 4 to 6 books** over the summer has the potential to prevent a decline in reading achievement scores from the spring to the fall.

The research shows that goal setting and freedom of choice have had a positive impact on reading development over time. According to the current research, "When children select reading materials themselves and read for enjoyment, they receive the most gains in reading achievement, including better reading comprehension, writing style, vocabulary, spelling, and grammatical development. Also, the longer that this free voluntary reading is practiced, the more consistent and positive the results." Therefore, we will leave you a list of suggested titles and authors your child can select from but they are certainly welcome to seek guidance from the local library, parents, teachers, and bestseller lists (Wakefield Books, Amazon, B & N bestseller lists). Finally, we ask that you help guide your child to age-appropriate books. While *Dog Man* and *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* books are enjoyable, we ask that they pick something for this assignment that challenges them a little more.

In order to put these reading skills and strategies into action, two summer reading projects will be required. Please see the sheet below for the specific requirements. They will be due on September 1, 2023 but will be accepted as early as the first day of school. If you have any questions regarding the assignments listed or book choices, please check the Google Classroom as all materials are also there. You may also email me at [amdesantis@monsignorclarkeschool.org](mailto:amdesantis@monsignorclarkeschool.org) if you need further assistance. Happy reading!

Sincerely,

Amanda DeSantis

# PROJECT INSTRUCTIONS

- 1) Select two books. These books can be books from bestseller lists or recommendations from librarians, friends, bookstores, etc.
- 2) There are three projects listed in the packet and/or Google Classroom. Select **TWO** book projects to complete, one project for each book.

## Some suggested titles from “bestseller lists”

Alan Gratz books (*Refugee*, *Allies*, *Two Degrees...*)

*Freak the Mighty*

*Rules*

*Counting by 7s*

*Fish in a Tree*

*The Crossover*

*The Wednesday Wars*

*Beyond the Bright Sea*

*Insignificant Events in the Life of a Cactus*

*Chains*

*Where the Red Fern Grows*

*Pax*

# PROJECT CHOICE #1

## Character Head Characterization Rubric

Choose one character and characterize her/him using the template provided.

\_\_\_\_\_ POINTS AVAILABLE

\_\_\_\_\_ Character's name in large font.

\_\_\_\_\_ Include one significant character quote to show what they are like.

\_\_\_\_\_ Include two images relevant to the character (concrete or abstract).

\_\_\_\_\_ Include three adjectives to describe the character's traits. Underneath or next to the trait, please include one sentence explaining why the character fits that trait. (See attached list for character traits.)

\_\_\_\_\_ Briefly describe a turning point event involving the character.

\_\_\_\_\_ Include the title of the novel or story, author, and genre.

\_\_\_\_\_ Use an attractive color scheme with virtually no white space.

\_\_\_\_\_ All text is legible, dark, and attractive. The final text is not written in pencil.

\_\_\_\_\_ Head is securely glued to reinforced backing. (construction paper or cardstock)

\_\_\_\_\_ Head and backing are cut and trimmed neatly.

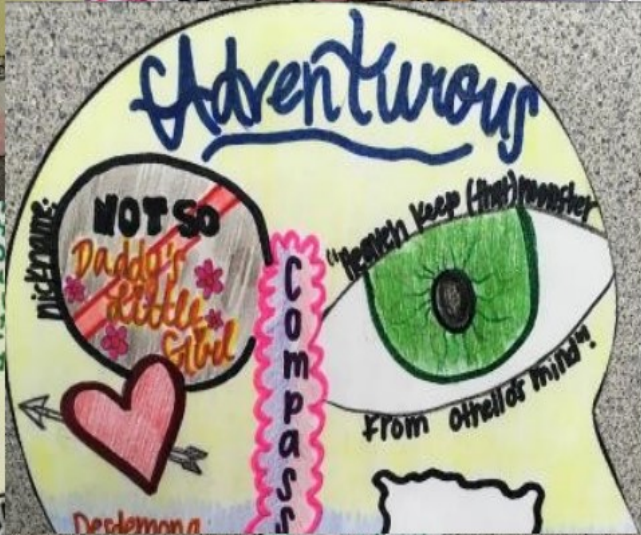
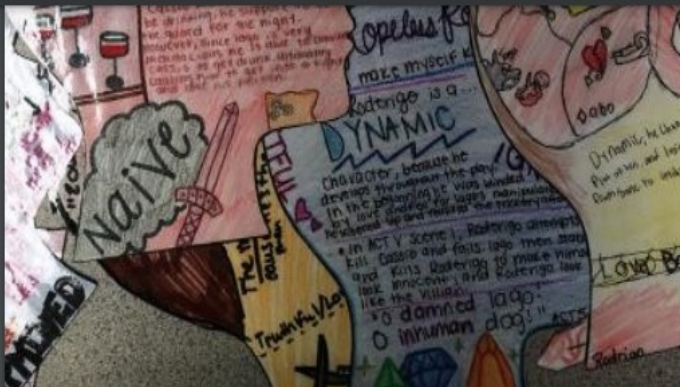
\_\_\_\_\_ Error free in grammar, mechanics, and spelling.

\_\_\_\_\_ Full name AND grade on the back of the final product.

\_\_\_\_\_ Attention to detail, high quality of work, unfolded without creases and crumples.

\_\_\_\_\_ Quality of work reflects knowledge and understanding of character.

\_\_\_\_\_ POINTS EARNED



## Positive Character Traits

Admirable	Devoted	Loving
Adventurous	Diplomatic	Loyal
Agreeable	Driven	Motivating
Amiable	Easygoing	Neat
Amusing	Educated	Nice
Animating	Enchanting	Optimistic
Appreciative	Enthusiastic	Organized
Athletic	Ethical	Passionate
Attentive	Exciting	Patient
Authentic	Extraordinary	Peaceful
Benevolent	Fair	Polite
Brave	Focused	Principled
Bright	Forgiving	Punctual
Brilliant	Friendly	Reliable
Calm	Generous	Respectful
Capable	Gentle	Responsible
Caring	Good-natured	Self-disciplined
Charitable	Grateful	Selfless
Charming	Happy	Serene
Cheerful	Hardworking	Sincere
Clean	Helpful	Skillful
Clear-headed	Heroic	Strong
Clever	Honest	Supportive
Compassionate	Hopeful	Sweet
Considerate	Humble	Sympathetic
Cooperative	Impressive	Thoughtful
Courageous	Innocent	Trustworthy
Courteous	Intelligent	Tidy
Creative	Inventive	Understanding
Curious	Joyful	Unselfish
Dedicated	Kind	Virtuous
Delightful	Logical	Wise

## Negative Character Traits

Aggressive	Envious	Moody
Angry	Fearful	Negative
Annoying	Foolish	Neglectful
Anxious	Forgetful	Obnoxious
Argumentative	Frightening	Pessimistic
Arrogant	Gloomy	Petty
Awkward	Greedy	Possessive
Biased	Grim	Power-hungry
Bored	Grumpy	Prejudiced
Bossy	Hardhearted	Resentful
Brutal	Hateful	Rude
Callous	Haughty	Scornful
Charmless	Hostile	Selfish
Clumsy	Ignorant	Shallow
Conceited	Impatient	Sloppy
Cowardly	Impractical	Sulky
Critical	Inconsiderate	Sneaky
Cruel	Indecisive	Snobbish
Dangerous	Insincere	Sluggish
Deceitful	Insulting	Thoughtless
Destructive	Intolerant	Threatening
Devious	Irresponsible	Unappreciative
Difficult	Irritable	Uncaring
Discouraging	Jealous	Uncooperative
Discourteous	Lazy	Unforgiving
Dishonest	Liar	Unfriendly
Disloyal	Mean	Ungrateful
Disobedient	Meddlesome	Unhealthy
Disorganized	Messy	Unreliable
Disrespectful	Miserable	Violent
Disruptive	Monotonous	Weak
Dull	Monstrous	Wicked



**PROJECT CHOICE #2** – Please be prepared to deliver a “book talk” when you return to school. You will also hand in a typed copy of your book talk as well which will be graded. \* Remember what **QUALITY** written work looks like.

### **Book Talk Rubric**

<b>What you need to include</b>	<b>Possible points</b>	<b>Points earned</b>
<b>Hook your reader</b> (question or interesting statement)	5 points	
<b>Title and author</b> ( <i>italicize the title of the book</i> )	5 points	
<b>Genre</b> (What is the genre? Why is your book that genre?)	5 points	
<b>Character(s) – name(s), ages, a little about them/Setting</b>	10 points	
<b>Problem(s)</b>	10 points	
<b>Brief summary (3-4 sentences) *Don't give away the ending!!!)</b>	20 points	
<b>Recommendation(s)</b> Who might like this book?	10 points	
<b>Read a short passage or quotation from the book</b>	10 points	
<b>Presentation</b> (voice volume, clarity, answer questions from the audience)	10 points	
<b>Conventions in the document</b>	10 points	
<b>Uploaded to Google Classroom on time</b> (picture of the book cover, written product including requirements above)	5 points	

# BOOKTALK INSTRUCTIONS

A booktalk is a short speech delivered with the intent of convincing someone to read a book. It is like a commercial or a movie trailer that is meant to hook the audience and get them to want to read the book as well. Remember that a booktalk is **NOT** a book review, a book report, or a book analysis. Below you will find information how to prepare and organize your booktalk.



## INTRODUCE YOUR BOOK

Introduce the book to your listener by first telling them the title, author, and genre. You might also consider telling them how you found the book and came to read it.

## HOOK YOUR AUDIENCE

Hook your audience immediately! You might consider doing this by reading an exciting quote, setting the scene, asking a thought-provoking question, or making a connection between the novel to your audience.

## SUMMARIZE THE BOOK

After you have hooked your audience, give them a brief overview of the plot of the book you are speaking about. It is really important that you strike a balance between telling them what the story is about and not revealing too much and spoiling the plotline/ending. During your plot summary, you might also discuss the characters, conflict, or interesting themes explored in the book. Again, be careful not to reveal TOO much.

## YOUR PERSONAL IMPRESSIONS

After the summary, you should provide your personal impressions of the book. You might consider discussing what attracted you to it, a favorite part or passage, how you relate to the book, an interesting theme that the novel explores, or text-to-world connections.

## SHARE A PASSAGE

Share an interesting, exciting, or thought-provoking passage from your novel (read it directly from the book). This can be done during the plot summary or personal impression section as well! After you read the passage, explain why you chose it or discuss the significance.

## CONCLUDE & ENTICE

To conclude your booktalk, give the book a rating and discuss what type of person would love this selection. You should also entice the listener to read this book and leave them wanting more.

# BOOKTALK CHECKLIST



Below you will find a checklist that you can use to make sure you are fully prepared for your booktalk.

☐

I HAVE INCLUDED THE TITLE, AUTHOR, AND GENRE.

☐

I HAVE INCLUDED A QUOTE OR PASSAGE FROM THE BOOK TO SHARE WITH THE AUDIENCE.

☐

I HAVE HOOKED MY LISTENER IN SOME WAY AT THE START OF THE BOOKTALK.

☐

I HAVE PRACTICED MY BOOKTALK MULTIPLE TIMES SO THAT I DO NOT READ DIRECTLY FROM MY NOTES.

☐

I HAVE SUMMARIZED THE PLOT AND DISCUSSED CHARACTER, CONFLICT, AND THEME WITHOUT REVEALING TOO MUCH.

☐

I HAVE HAD AT LEAST ONE PERSON LISTEN TO ME PRACTICE MY BOOKTALK.

☐

I HAVE PROVIDED A PERSONAL IMPRESSION OF THE BOOK.

☐

I HAVE MY BOOK READY TO BRING TO CLASS WHEN IT IS MY DAY TO PRESENT.

☐

I HAVE CONCLUDED THE BOOK TALK BY PROVIDING A RECOMMENDATION AND ENTICING THE LISTENER.

☐

I HAVE READ THE BOOKTALK INSTRUCTIONS THOROUGHLY AND COMPLETED THE PLANNING SHEET.

### **PROJECT CHOICE #3 – “Alternate ending one pager”**

**I know there are some of you who love creative writing and storytelling, so this project is for you! After you have finished reading your book and you understand the resolution to the story, you have a chance to rewrite the ending. Please rewrite the ending in the way that you would have liked the book to end. Your writing will be kept to one page and will be printed out AND submitted through Google Classroom.**