

8th Grade LA Independent Novel Project

You will be reading **four** books outside of class this year. Each book choice must correspond with the required genre listed below, depending on the quarter. Since you will be given the opportunity to choose your own titles, I encourage you to find novels that interest and speak to you. Choose books that are at or slightly above your reading level. Your parent(s) and Mrs. Hahn must approve your selection before you begin reading.



Quarter One: Fiction

Quarter Two: Nonfiction

Quarter Three: Historical Fiction

Quarter Four: Your Choice (!)

Where will I obtain the books? There are five options for obtaining novels, and you may use any combination of them throughout the course of the year. Please note that whatever format you choose must offer you page numbers.

1. [Google Play Books](#) on your Nexus 7 tablet (especially for free classic novels)
2. [Overdrive](#) app on your tablet, which allows you to check out audio and e-books through your public library (library card required)
3. Hard copies of books from [a public library](#) (library card required)
4. Hard copies of books from the [school library](#)
5. Electronic or hard copy of the book you have [purchased yourself or borrowed from a friend](#)

Miscellaneous

- Plagiarism or cheating in any way will not be tolerated and will result in a grade of -0- for the project.
- You will complete the written assignments [and](#) give a short presentation for each of the four novels.
- There are two due dates for the INP--the first due date is for the reading of the book. About four weeks into the quarter you will earn a grade for completing your reading. The final due date is for the written work and presentation.
- Extra Credit will be awarded for creativity in the presentation.
- Two class periods per week will be given to reading your book and/or working on your project.
- Only one student per class period can choose any single book; there can be no duplication throughout the year.
- However, additional extra credit can be earned if you read and pass an AR test for an INP book recommended by your classmates.

Formatting Instructions of Written Document:

- You will create one on-going document of your written work, which should be titled: **LastName Quarter __ Novel Project Written Work**.
- Your project must be typed in 12-point font (no all CAPS fonts, please), with 1-inch margins, and double-spacing.
- Proofread your work.
- Note page numbers where information can be found in the text using correct [MLA parenthetical citation](#).
- Each page should be consecutively numbered.
- Please create a [cover page](#) and a [works cited](#) (last page of the written document).

The chart below is based on [Bloom's Taxonomy of Critical Thinking](#) (Revised).

<p>Remembering</p> <p>Choose one of these options.</p>	<p>Create a chart of characters from your book. Include four columns: Name and Role in Story; Physical Traits; Character Traits + explanation; Static/Dynamic + Explanation. Include information for the most important 4-6 characters.</p> <p>SAMPLE</p>	<p>Make up a TWENTY QUESTION assessment for your novel—five true/false questions, five multiple choice, five matching, and <u>five open-ended questions</u> (these types of questions rely on evidence-based opinions) for your book. <u>Notate the answers directly on the document.</u></p> <p>SAMPLE</p>	<p>Create a plot diagram for your book. Identify all the key parts.</p> <p>SAMPLE</p>
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<p>Applying and Creating</p>	<p>***CREATIVE PROJECT*** Do something creative to show your understanding of your book. You could make a movie trailer, create a music video, write an alternate ending, design a graphic novel depiction of a scene, create a soundtrack for your character with an explanation of why each song is appropriate to the text, create a mandala for a character, write original poems or songs based on the book, make a PSA (public service announcement), etc. You MUST get your idea approved by Mrs. Hahn. Do this sooner rather than later! The creative project needs to show off your skills and display a depth of understanding about the book/character/theme, etc. <u>You must also create an approximately half-page explanation of what you created, how you created it, and why you created it.</u></p> <p>SAMPLES</p>
<p>Evaluating</p>	<p>Write a one-page original review of the entire book (including ending). Begin with a half-page (ten-sentence) SUMMARY of the book. Make sure to focus on the key elements of the story (plot, characters, setting, resolution, conflicts, point of view, etc.). Then, begin your personal review. Would you recommend the book? Why or why not? SAMPLE</p>

Presentation Expectations

Google Slideshow/Presentation (slidescarnival.com for new templates)

Include the following:

- Your name and the book's genre, title, author's name, and publication year
- Bullet pointed info that includes the basics of the characters, conflict, and resolution (no spoilers!)
- Bullet pointed info about your personal review of the book (WHY did you/did you not like it?)
- Presentation and explanation of creative assignment related to the book

Remember that extra credit will be awarded for going above and beyond! This is a FORMAL presentation, so the quality of your presentation is important and will be graded. This means speaking clearly, knowing your information, not reading a prepared statement, etc. Presentations should be 3-5 minutes long, TOTAL, so plan your time carefully!

[MRS. HAHN'S SAMPLE](#)

[SAMPLE 1](#)

[SAMPLE 2](#)

Online Resources:

Ultimate Teen Reading List: <http://www.teenreads.com/teenreadscom-ultimate-reading-list>

Goodreads Teen Nonfiction: <http://www.goodreads.com/shelf/show/teen-nonfiction>

Goodreads Teen Historical Fiction: http://www.goodreads.com/list/show/476.Teen_Historical_Fiction

**Easybib.com to help you with your citations: <http://www.easybib.com>

And Finally...

There will be **NO EXCEPTIONS** for the due date. If you are absent for any reason your project is due by the **end of the school day**. Your project will be accepted one day late for a maximum grade of 75. Because projects are due at the end of the quarter, no projects will be accepted more than one day late for any reason. Projects will be submitted electronically, so your project should be turned in even if you are absent.

If at any point you have questions, please speak with or email Mrs. Hahn!

**Independent Novel Project Form - LA
Quarter 1**

Reading Due: **October 7**

Written Work and Presentation Due: **October 28**

Category: Fiction

Title:

Number of Pages: _____

Author: _____

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Plan for Obtaining the Book:

Student Signature:

Parent Signature:

Date: _____

Parents, by signing this form you are giving consent for your child to read this book. Feel free to conduct some research about the appropriateness of it if you are questioning its content.

8th Grade Language Arts Independent Novel Project

Quarter: _____ Genre: _____

Student Name: _____

Book Title: _____ Author: _____

Written Work

Criteria	Points Possible	Points Earned
Document is properly formatted *12 pt. font *double-spaced *cover page *table of contents *numbered pages *category headings	10	
Quality of Remembering assignment (+ textual support)	10	
Quality of Creating/Applying assignment	10	
Quality of Creating/Applying explanation	10	
Quality of Evaluating assignment (+ textual support)	10	
Works Cited and Proper Textual Citations	10	
<i>Written Portion Total</i>	60	

Note: Quality of writing, grammar, mechanics, paragraphing, etc. is built into each row listed above. If you fail to write in paragraphs, let's say, for each of the aforementioned assignments, you will have points deducted in each category.

Presentation

Criteria	Points Possible	Points Earned
*Slides are visually appealing and error-free *Intro slide contains the student name, genre, title, author, & publication year	10	
*Summary and review slides are brief *Oral summary is clear and easy to follow	10	
Creative project is presented in an informative and engaging way	10	
Eye contact/comfort level (has clearly practiced)	5	
Energy/enthusiasm/ expression/volume	5	
Extra Credit:		
<i><u>Presentation Total</u></i>	35	

Comments: