

Hancock Day School

Rising 4th Grade Summer Reading

Students will read two of the following novels, then write a book report for one and complete a bookmark for the second.

- Ralph S. Mouse Beverly Cleary
- The Report Card Andrew Clements
- The Tale of Despereaux Kate DiCamillo
- Any one of the Percy Jackson and the Olympians Series by Rick Riordan (can only report on one of these)
- Sideways Stories from Wayside School by Louis Sachar
- Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing Judy Blume

1. Book Report

The book report should be **handwritten in cursive**. The report must have a cover page with a hand drawn and colored illustration placed in a report cover. Students will read these reports aloud in class the first week, so make sure they have read it aloud prior to turning it in.

I. Introductory Paragraph

- A. First sentence should state the title of the book and the author's name.
- B. Second sentence should tell how many pages the book has and the name of the publisher.
- C. Third sentence can state any other basic bibliographic information and the genre of the book. You can mention any movies or other books in the series.
- D. Fourth sentence should state the reason(s) you decided to read this book. (You like the author, this type of book, liked the cover, etc.)
- E. optional sentence if the cover (back cover) of the book gives you any additional/interesting information
 - Was the book a best seller?
 - Did it win any major awards?

II. Main Character(s) Paragraph

A. First sentence should state who the main character(s) of the book are, and why they are important.

B. Other Characters

You should compose at least one sentence for each of the other important characters in the book. State the name of each and the key role that each one plays in the book

III. Plot Summary Paragraph

A. This is perhaps the hardest paragraph to write in five sentences or so. If you have to write a bit more--don't worry.

i. Here are the main points to cover:

1. Setting: place, time period, location, etc.
2. What is the main character trying to do?
3. What is the climax or turning point?
4. What is the outcome of the book? Any lessons learned?

B. Make sure you cover all of the major parts of the plot. You might have to go back through the book, chapter by chapter, and make a few notes.

I. Personal Impressions and Conclusion Paragraph

A. Talk about what you liked or disliked about the book. It should summarize your overall impressions of the book and bring the report to a close.

- i. Start with a sentence that states you are writing a conclusion. (i.e.: "My final thoughts on")
- ii. Restate your reasons why you liked or disliked using different words.
- iii. Write two sentences that talk about the good and weak points and what you learned from the book.
- iv. Close with whether you would recommend the book to others.
- v. Optional: if you were to cast a Hollywood movie for this book, who would you pick to play the main characters?

2. Book Mark

Use card stock paper of any color (it will hold up the best). Plan for the bookmark to be around 3 x 8.5 inches.

On the front of bookmark include this information:

- Title and author

- A 'catch' phrase to represent a key idea of the story
- A visual image to represent the story

On the back of the bookmark, include this information:

- A brief summary of the book (4-5 sentences)
- A list of main characters with a brief description of each
- Rate the book: draw 1-5 stars to show how much you liked/disliked the book

Helpful hint-use plenty of color, neat handwriting or type words & cut/paste onto bookmark, add your imagination, etc.! At the start of school, we will laminate & exchange these with other students in our class who did not read that book over the summer. It is a fun way to encourage reading!

Name: _____

Date: _____

Summer Book Report Grading Rubric

Total Grade _____/100 points

_____/10 Cover

_____/20 Introductory Paragraph

The first sentence should state the title of the book and the author's name.

Another sentence should state basic bibliographic information and the genre of the book.

An optional sentence can be used if the cover (back cover) of the book gives you any additional information.

_____/20 Main Character(s) Paragraph

The first sentence of this paragraph should state who the main character(s) of the book are, and why they are important.

Other Characters You should compose at least one sentence for each of the other important characters in the book.

_____/30 Plot Summary Paragraph

Setting: place, time period, location, etc. Be specific.

What is the main character trying to do?

What is the outcome of the book?

_____/20 Personal Impressions and Conclusion Paragraph

Restate your reasons why you liked and/or disliked the book using different words.

Write two sentences that talk about the book's good points and weak points and what you learned from the book.

Close with a sentence that states whether you would recommend the book to others.

Optional: if this book is not a movie already, who would you cast to play as the main characters?