

Date Assigned:  
Tuesday, November 3



8th Grade Language Arts  
5th and 7th Periods

## Guidelines

### Outside Reading Project!

**Overview** The main idea is that you need to **always** have (at least) one book you are reading on your own outside of class. This book, along with your planner, should be brought with you to each class every day. Yep, every single day, every single class. You never know when the opportunity will present itself for you to be able to read a few pages.

You are expected to read from a different genre every nine-weeks. For example, you might chose a mystery this nine-weeks and opt for a historical fiction for the second half of the semester.

**Philosophy** The philosophy behind the outside reading requirement is quite simple:

- The more you read, the more you know.
- Reading is fun, especially if you choose what you read.
- The more you read, the better your vocabulary, the higher your FCAT, ACT, and PSAT scores, the better you think in all your classes and situations.
- You need to choose your own books

whenever possible, guided only by your interests and needs at the time.

- It is okay to abandon a book if it is dull or too difficult and get another one.— As long as you do not wait until the last minute to do so.
- If you love to read you will never be bored, especially if you always have a book or a magazine with you at all time.

**Important Note** I have and know of many excellent books I would be happy to recommend to you. My ultimate recommendation, however, is to be sure you find a book you are really interested in reading. Any books in my room are yours to borrow so long as you sign them out. If you misplace a borrowed book, it is up to you to bring in a new replacement copy of the exact book.

**What I know is this:** reading well is the price of admission to success in school, work, and life. It enriches your life, strengthens your mind, and helps you understand yourself and others.

Now let's get started!

- You must always have a book you are reading outside of class and I expect you to always have your book with you.
- This book is subject for approval.
- I expect you to read each day from your outside reading book.
- Books must be appropriate to your age, interests, and ability.
- Each book must be of a different genre.
- Class texts and summer reading books do not count.

*Make this a positive, successful, and fun assignment. I believe in your abilities as a reader and as a student.*

### Student Responsibilities:

1. Select an appropriate book, bring to class for teacher approval no later than Monday, November 9 (10 points)
2. Make sure book is available for the cover to be copied and autographed for our "Wall of Books" on Friday, November 13 (10 points)
3. Maintain and update your reading portfolio index card (10 points)
4. Complete both graphic organizers (each worth 25 points)
  - Character's Mind Map
  - Sensory Notes
6. Complete assigned writing project (100 points)—see back of page for project options and details

**Due Date:** Thursday, December 10

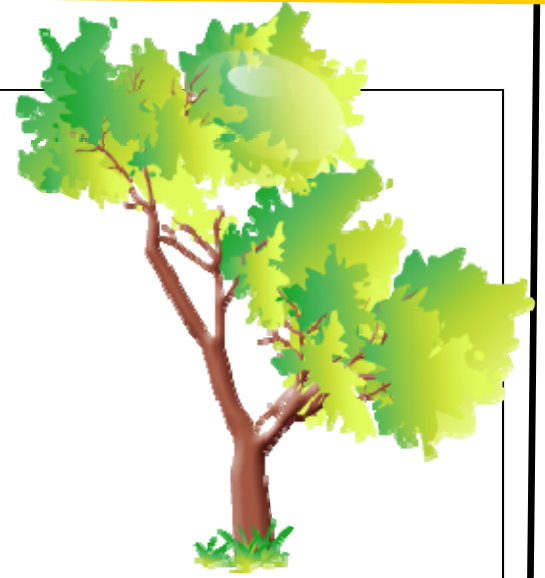
**All pieces (except for the book cover and reading portfolio index card) should be stapled together for turn in.**

Tentative Student-Teacher Reading Conference Schedule (each worth 25 points):

- Friday, November 13
- Wednesday, November 18
- Wednesday, December 2

Students are responsible if absent during the day of the reading conference to obtain and complete the necessary work. It is up to the student to request and retrieve the necessary materials.

## The Real "STTIC" Project and Rubric



In football when the coach yells, "Break it down!" It means for the players to get into position and be ready to take on whatever or rather whomever is headed his way. Our literary approach to this is "STTIC" (pronounced like stick) where we take a short story or novel and break it down to palatable bites. I expect for each question to be answered fully with information and details from the book to back up your statements.

- ⇒ **Summary:** If you had to explain this text to a 7 year-old, what would you say (in less than 3 sentences)?
- ⇒ **Title:** What does the title mean? Go deeper than the obvious.
- ⇒ **Theme:** What is the author's message to the world? Explain in a full paragraph (6 - 7 sentences).
- ⇒ **Imagery:** Describe at least two instances of metaphor, simile, or personification. Be sure to cite the page number of your examples.
- ⇒ **Conflict:** Four types of conflict exist: Person vs. Nature, Person vs. Person, Person vs. Self, & Person vs. Society. Explain which appears in the book.

### Expectations:

- Answers will be well developed.
- Responses will address and answer the questions given.
- Specific details from the text will be given in support to "defend" your written responses.
- Quality work standards will be present (proper conventions and spelling, written legibly in pen or typed with little to no distracting errors).
- Student will use the rubric given for reference on how work will be graded.

**Student Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Class:** \_\_\_\_\_

**2009-2010 Second Nine-Weeks' Outside Reading Project Rubrics—For 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Period Classes**

Reading Index Portfolio Grade	
10 8 6 4 2 0	Index card is complete with the book's title, author, number of pages, and start and end dates of reading.
Grade: /10	
Wall of Books	
10 7 0	Book was brought in on specified date for cover to be copied for class' Wall of Books or copy was brought in of cover by student by specified date.
Grade: /10	

Graphic Organizer Rubrics		
Character's Mind Map	Sensory Notes	Criteria
5 4 3 2 1 0	5 4 3 2 1 0	<b>Organization</b> Graphic organizer is complete. Each section has been satisfactorily completely.
5 4 3 2 1 0	5 4 3 2 1 0	<b>Insight and Comprehension</b> Your comments show insight and comprehension of your book and topic.
5 4 3 2 1 0	5 4 3 2 1 0	<b>Focus</b> Central idea is clear and effective. Maintains focus throughout and information is logically linked.
5 4 3 2 1 0	5 4 3 2 1 0	<b>Quality Work Standards</b> Work is typed or clearly handwritten with no scratch outs or mistakes.  Margins are clear. Paper is straight and orderly. Beautiful, careful work (e.g., does it look like it was written or created at the last minute?).
5 4 3 2 1 0	5 4 3 2 1 0	<b>Conventions</b> Your work is grammatically correct with no spelling or grammatical errors.
Grade: / 25	Grade: / 25	

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

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Student will use the rubric given for reference on how work will be graded.

### The Real "STTIC" Project Rubric

Each of the following items is addressed and responded to in full.

Point Assignment:

20	15	10	5	0	Summary: If you had to explain this text to a 7 year-old, what would you say (in less than 3 sentences)?
20	15	10	5	0	Title: What does the title mean? Go deeper than the obvious.
20	15	10	5	0	Theme: What is the author's message to the world? Explain in a full paragraph (6 - 7 sentences).
20	15	10	5	0	Imagery: Describe at least two instances of metaphor, simile, or personification. Be sure to cite the page number of your examples.
20	15	10	5	0	Conflict: Four types of conflict exist: Person vs. Nature, Person vs. Person, Person vs. Self, & Person vs. Society. Explain which appears in the book.
10	8	6	4	2	0 Quality work standards: Assignment is turned in with pride. Paper and poster are clean, not wrinkled, and is easy to read with no distracting error corrections.

/ 110 Final Grade

Comments:

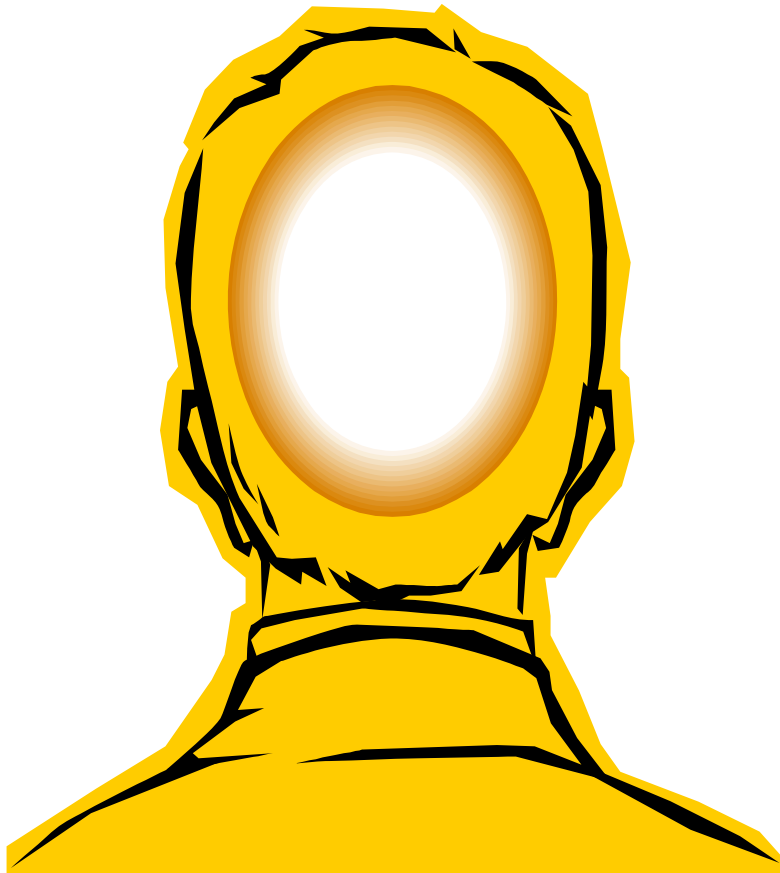
Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Title and author of book: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Mind Map's Character: \_\_\_\_\_

### Mind Map

If you could climb inside the mind of one your characters  
what do you think you would find?



#### Inside the head:

- Draw three symbols or images from this section of the book that you feel represent what is going on in this character's head.
- Record the three most important words or phrases from this section of the book.

#### Around the head:

- Next, make a legend for your symbols, briefly explaining what each of the three symbols represent.
- Then explain why you selected these three particular words or phrases.

Write three questions you still have about this story's character.

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

### Sensory Notes

Directions: Sensory Notes are a tool and technique designed to help you pay closer attention to details while you read. Effective readers use all of their senses while they read. Use this sheet to take notes on what you see, hear, smell, feel—and think—as you read. Be specific and write down the page numbers from your book as you write your notes. Goal is to have three to four items in each left-hand box. You may type or use your own paper if you feel this will help you.

*Title of Book:* \_\_\_\_\_

I see...	Most Important Image
I hear...	Most Important Sound
I feel...	Most Important Sensation
I smell...	Most Important Scent
I think...	Most Important Thought

**Student Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Class:** \_\_\_\_\_

**The Real "STTIC" Project**

In football when the coach yells, "Break it down!" It means for the players to get into position and be ready to take on whatever or rather whoever is headed his way. Our literary approach to this is "STTIC" (pronounced like stick) where we take a short story or novel and break it down to palatable bites. STTIC stands for Summary, Title, Theme, Imagery, and Conflict. I expect for each question to be answered and in complete sentences in pen or typed. Yes, you may use your own paper or type.

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**Summary:** If you had to explain this text to a 7 year-old, what would you say (in less than three sentences)?

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**Book Title:** What is the title and what does it mean? Go deeper than the obvious.

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**Theme:** What is the author's message to the world? Explain in a full paragraph (6 - 7 sentences).

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**Imagery:** Describe at least two instances of metaphor, simile, or personification. Be sure to cite the page number of your examples.

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**Conflict:** Four types of conflict exist: Person vs. Nature, Person vs. Person, Person vs. Self, & Person vs. Society. Explain which appears in the book.

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