

2023 Summer Reading Project!

This summer reading project will require students to choose their own book to read.

Chosen books must meet the following requirements:

- The book can be fiction or nonfiction.
- The book must be written for adults or young adults (YA literature).
- The book must be primarily text-focused (no graphic novels, manga, comic books, etc.)
- The book must be approximately 150 pages **or more**.
- After reading the book, students will complete one project

Remember that ***all projects include a writing component***. During the first week of school students and the reading teacher will discuss the books and share student projects. This gives both students and the teacher the chance to connect to the literature by sharing their reactions, questions, and insights. Summer reading also counts as a grade for reading classes.

Stumped on which book to pick? Here's some helpful tips!

Fear not! Being an avid reader, I understand the struggle of choosing just one. Here are some extra challenges you can use to help you decide!

1. Pick a literary award and read a book that has won that award. Here are some handy guides to major awards in: literary fiction, science fiction/fantasy.
 - a. *The National Book Award gives out prizes in fiction, nonfiction, YA, and poetry*
2. Pick a subject you're interested in—it could be anything. The history of French macarons. Space exploration. Knitting. Seriously: anything! Now find a non-fiction book that explores that subject.
3. Think of a list of countries, states, or places you've always wanted to visit, then read a book that takes place in one of those.
4. Make a list of identities (race, religion, gender, nationality, disability, etc.) that are important to you and/or influence the way you experience the world. Read a book by an author who shares one of those identities **OR** read a book by an author whose identities are different from yours.
5. Pick a historical figure or event you've always been interested in or have significant impact on the current politics and/or culture. Read a book (fiction or nonfiction) about that person, event, or movement.
6. Find a list of book recommendations from a celebrity you admire, and then read one of those books.
7. Pick a classic you've always wanted to read. **OR**, read a retelling/reinvention of that classic instead.

When in doubt, go to the library. Talk to your local librarians, browse the stacks, and find something that catches your interest!

Now that I've picked a book, what's next?

Excellent question! I've got some options for you. Look at the different projects below and choose **ONE** of them to complete this summer.

1. Museum Exhibit (Ideal for non-fiction)

- a. Create a museum exhibit, or a digital version of a museum exhibit, to explain, demonstrate, or illustrate key ideas or concepts from your book. Your exhibit must include at least 5 elements. Elements can include objects, pictures of objects, demonstrations, videos, photos, primary documents, etc. You must include a paragraph for each element explaining what it is and how it relates to the topic.
- b. Create it on either google slides (where each slide is a different part of your exhibit) OR draw pictures of each part of your exhibit.
- c. The paragraphs (6-8 sentences each) you write will function as an informational plaque for each element of your exhibit!

2. Original Play (Ideal for fiction)

- a. Continue the story line or show interactions between characters outside the story. Write a script including dialogue, stage directions, scenery, and any necessary commentary in proper format.
- b. Your script should be about 3 pages long
- c. In a paragraph (6-8 sentences) explain why you have chosen to write the scene, include at least 5 quotations from the book, and show how these influenced your play/scene.

3. Character Letters

- a. Examine two characters from the book, and write four letters total (at least 1 letter per character) from the viewpoint of the characters. Letters should be at least one page and should be in a letter format including greeting, body and salutation. You are encouraged to include photos, drawings or other accompanying materials.
- b. In a paragraph (6-8 sentences) include an explanation as to why you chose the characters. Include at least 5 quotations from the book, and show how these influenced your letters.

4. Artistic Work

- a. i.e. Quilt Square, Needlework, Painting, Sculpture, Mixed Media Art, etc.
- b. As you read the book, think about the important concepts, images, or themes of the book. Design a piece that incorporates these ideas, images,

or themes and reflects the book. The piece should measure at least 9 x 9 inches.

- c. In 2 paragraphs (6-8 sentences each) explain why you chose the images, colors, media, etc. for your work, include at least 5 quotations from your book that influenced your artistic choices.

5. Alternative Ending (Ideal for fiction)

- a. How many times have you wished you could rewrite the ending of a book? Here's your chance to tie up all of the loose ends and resolve the story in a way you like.
- b. Write at least five paragraphs (6-8 sentences each) to retell the ending and include at least 5 specific references to quotations that influenced your new ending.

6. Video Book Talk

- a. Design and produce a commercial to “sell” your book and hook readers. The video should be at least 5 minutes long. Review the book, explaining its strengths as well as your own recommendations or similar/related books. Be sure to explain what type of reader will enjoy this book and why. You must choose at least 5 quotations from the book and in a paragraph (6-8 sentences) explain their significance and how these passages affected the review.

What if I have questions?

If you have any questions about any of the projects, stop by Ms. Bruneel’s classroom before the end of the year and we can brainstorm together! If you have questions over the summer, shoot me an email at mbruneel@smsbellevue.org and I’ll get back to you as soon as I can.

Rubric

	4	3	2	1
Understanding of the text	The writing reflects a thorough understanding of complex ideas and concepts in the text.	The writing reflects understanding of the text beyond just the recall of facts	The writing reflects a basic understanding of the text	The writing reflects limited understanding of the text; there is little evidence that the text was read
Mechanics of writing	The writing reflects appropriate spelling, grammar, punctuation, and sentence formation	The writing has few spelling, grammar, punctuation, or sentence formation errors which do not interfere with comprehension	The writing has many spelling, grammar, punctuation, or sentence formation errors. The errors interfere with comprehension	The writing reflects minimal control of spelling, grammar, punctuation, and/or sentence formation. It is difficult to read
Writing/ Art/ Video Writing	The writing reflects careful attention to detail and effort, and guidelines were completely followed	The writing reflects some attention to detail and effort, and guidelines were followed	The writing reflects minimal attention to detail and effort, and guidelines were not followed	The writing reflects poor effort, and the guidelines were not followed