

Fourth Grade
Second Quarter
Mystery Book Project

Dear Parents,

It's time for the fourth graders to prepare for their second quarter book report. This time, students will be required to read a **mystery**. Remember that it must be a book from the Painted Rock Academy recommended reading list. The book must be approved by a parent and the teacher.

The final project is due December . Students must turn in a written report and a completed "Mystery Bag," according to the attached directions. A presentation of the "Mystery Bag" will occur on December 15-18, 2025.

Important Dates

October 14, 2025: Book approval form turned into the teacher

December 10, 2025: Complete project is due to the teacher

December 15-18, 2025: Presentations in class

Please fill out the bottom portion of this page and return by October 14, 2025.

Choose a "mystery" book from the approved PRA reading list.

Name: _____

Title: _____

Author: _____ pages _____

Parent approval _____ date _____

Teacher approval _____ date _____

Written Report Guide

The written portion of this project will be a three paragraph report. Remember to include a topic sentence and closing sentence in each paragraph and indent each paragraph.

1st Paragraph: Introduce the main characters in your mystery. Describe their roles in the story and how they helped the mystery develop. Describe the setting of the story: when and where it takes place. (7-8 sentences)

2nd Paragraph: Summary of the story. How did the mystery begin, what important events/clues happened throughout the book, how was the mystery solved? (10-12 sentences)

3rd Paragraph: This paragraph should describe your opinion of the book. Remember to tie your opinions back to the story you read. Include specific details to explain your opinion. Would you recommend this book to others? (7-8 sentences)

Dress-Ups: Add dress-ups to each paragraph. Use the attached “Dress-ups Checklist” to write down your words for each paragraph and then highlight or underline those words in each paragraph.

- 2 strong verbs
- 2 quality adjectives
- 1 adverb
- 1 prepositional opener
- 1 clausal opener

The heading of the written report should look like the example below.

Writing	Name(first and last) #
Mystery Book Report	Date
<u>skip a line</u>	
<u>Title of Book (underlined)</u>	

The written project is worth 100 points.

Dress-Ups Checklist

Use this form to make sure you have all of the dress-ups needed for each paragraph.

	2 verbs	2 adjectives	1 adverb	1 prepositional opener	1 clausal opener
Paragraph 1					
Paragraph 2					
Paragraph 3					

Mystery Book Project

Mystery Bag

Prepare a “mystery bag” that will help you tell the highlights of the book you read.

1. Get a large bag: paper, reusable, etc.
2. Write your name, the name of your book, and the author on the bag or on a piece of paper and attach it to the bag.
3. Inside the bag, place 5 objects that played a key role in the story.
4. Use index cards to write a note about each of the objects telling how the object played a role in the story. One notecard per item.

Book Talk

You will prepare a talk to present to your class using the objects in your “Mystery Bag.” This “talk” should be 3-5 minutes in length. Remember to center on the mystery and the clues. NOT the solution. You may give details about the characters and how they are related to the mystery.

Evaluation of this project will be based on the following:

- Your book talk was the proper length.
- You were prepared, knowing what you wanted to say.
- Your bag was neatly and correctly labeled as directed.
- You stated the book’s title and author.
- You gave a good summary of the mystery.
- You had 5 well selected objects in your bag.
- You stated in detail how each object played a role in the story.
- You stood properly and looked at your audience.
- You spoke in a clear, loud voice, and at an appropriate speed.

It is important that you rehearse your book talk at home so you’ll know what you are going to say. Practice so you’ll be able to speak clearly in a voice that everyone can hear, and deliver the talk with confidence.

The mystery bag project is worth 50 points.

Turn in this rubric with the written report and mystery bag project.

Mystery Bag and Oral Presentation Grading Rubric

Name _____ Date Presented _____

Talk was proper length: 3-5 minutes_____/5

You were prepared and knew what you wanted to say....._____/5

Your bag was neatly and correctly labeled....._____/5

You stated the book's title and author....._____/5

You gave a good summary of the mystery....._____/10

You had 5 well-selected objects and stated how each object
played a role in the story....._____/10

You stood straight and looked at your audience....._____/5

You spoke in a clear voice and at an appropriate speed....._____/5

Total Points _____/50

Comments:

Mystery Written Report Rubric

1st Paragraph

- Introduce the characters in your mystery....._____/5
- Describe the character's roles in the story....._____/5
- Describe how the characters help the mystery develop....._____/5
- Describe the setting: where and when the story takes place....._____/5
- Spelling....._____/5
- Grammar....._____/5
- Dress-Ups....._____/5

2nd Paragraph

- Describe how the mystery began....._____/5
- Describe the important events/clues throughout the story....._____/10
- Describe how the mystery was solved....._____/5
- Spelling....._____/5
- Grammar....._____/5
- Dress-Ups....._____/5

3rd Paragraph

- Explain your opinion of the book with details from the story....._____/10
- Explain if you would recommend this book and why or why not....._____/5
- Spelling....._____/5
- Grammar....._____/5
- Dress-Ups....._____/5

Total: _____/100

Comments: