

Independent Reading

Throughout this semester, you will have the opportunity to read books of your choice outside of class.

Every Friday after the vocabulary quiz, you will have time to read in-class, meet with a partner to discuss the books you are reading, and hear from other class members about the books they are reading.

At the end of the semester, you will complete some kind of reflective project that stems from the books you've read. This project will be very open-ended and will allow you to use your creativity in determining both the content and the presentation of your project. (We will discuss this project in more detail later in the semester.)

While there is no daily page or time requirement for how much you read, since you will be getting a very minimal amount of homework from this class, you are expected to read every day. However, you are responsible for reading however much you want.

Requirements:

- Finish a book every 1-2 weeks (with your partner, you will set your pace).
- Read every day.
- Give each book you start a chance to get good, but then stop reading it if you do not find it interesting and/or enjoyable.

That's it. I understand that some days you will have more time than others, so I am not going to tell you how long you have to read. I am also not going to tell you how many pages you have to read or even what types of books you have to read, because, let's face it, that would defeat the entire purpose of this. (But they do have to be in English. I know. Sorry.)

Now... I know there are some of you (or at least one of you) out there who are thinking, "Great. I will read for 1 minute every day (or something else ridiculously stupid), and I will pass this assignment because Ms. Lewis told me I could read for however long I want. Ha! In your face!" (Okay... maybe you don't actually think, "In your face!" but you think something along those lines.) To which I would reply, "How sad for you... because you are closing yourself off to the fact that you could find a book that you love - a book that could change your life - just because you are so against the idea that you could actually *want* to read for more than 1 minute. How sad. Your life must really suck." (Yes. I would say that. Your life must really suck.)

Why are we doing this? Because I want you to *want* to read, and by only reading the books we read in class, some of you stopped wanting to read a long time ago. Also, you can Google all of the benefits of independent reading on vocabulary, writing, IQ, imagination, personal relationships, etc. Do it. And then try to tell me that reading is stupid.

This could be the most awesome thing we do all year, but it could also be a horrible, terrible failure. It is really all up to you. Please make it awesome.

*"Books are
the carriers of civilization.
Without books, history is silent,
literature dumb, science crippled, thought and speculation at a standstill.
Without books, the development of
civilization would have been
impossible.
They are engines of change,
windows on the world,
"lighthouses" (as a poet said)
"erected in a sea of time." They
are companions, magicians, and
bankers of the treasures of
the mind."
-Barbara W. Tuchman*

**"Just the knowledge that a good book is awaiting one at the end of a
long day makes that day happier."
-Kathleen Norris**

*"Literature has the power to take us out of ourselves and
return us to ourselves
different than when we started."
-Anonymous*

**"If the book we are reading does not wake us,
As with a fist hammering on our skull,
Why then do we read it?
A book must be an ice-axe
To break the frozen seas within us."
-Franz Kafka**

*"The man who does not read good books has no advantage over the man
who can't read them."
-Mark Twain*

Some Negative and Positive Thoughts on Reading in School

Having a reading program based on just diagnosis and prescription is

- Like making a cake and not tasting it –
- Like notes of music on paper –
- Like a library with closed doors –
- Like a marriage by contract.

Reading without sharing is

- Like watching a circus without saying anything –
- Like a commercial without a TV program –
- Like a frame without a picture –
- Like describing a spiral staircase without using your hands.

Explaining the rule for determining whether g is “hard” or “soft” is

- Like outlining how to play jazz –
- Like instructing how to kiss –
- Like using a compass without a map –
- Like explaining a bad joke.

Measuring three year’s growth in reading is

- Like measuring a sunrise –
- Like measuring a laugh –
- Like measuring an idea –
- Like weighing happiness.

Reading is not a Forty-Five Minute Period of Instruction with Behavioral Objectives and Predictable Outcomes.

Reading is enjoying, learning, feeling, becoming, sensing, laughing, crying, hating, deciding, loving, growing, sympathizing, listening.

Reading is All Day
Being and Becoming
Growing and Growing.

-Nancy Whitelaw

LITERATURE ASSESSMENT

Use this assessment to see if a book is at your independent reading level.

Read aloud for 30 seconds to someone who can count your errors. Counting backwards, write the number of words you read:

Write the number of errors you made:

Subtract **b** from **a**:

Divide **c** by **a**:

_____ %

- *The last number is your accuracy rate. If it is lower than 90%, this book might be too hard for you. Find an easier book.*
- *If it is 90% or higher, this might be a good book for you. Go on:*

Multiply **b** by 2. Write the total:

- *This last number is your reading rate. If it is lower than 90 words per minute, this book might be too hard for you. Find an easier book.*
- *If your reading rate is 90 wpm or higher, this book is the perfect level for you.*

English 11 Independent Reading Program

Parent/Guardian Letter

Dear Parent(s) and/or Guardian(s),

As a member of our class, your student will have the opportunity to take advantage of the power of literature. He/she will be given the time and guidance to explore more literature than ever before, to improve his/her reading skills, and to develop a love of reading.

Over the course of this semester, you should expect to see your student reading a book of his/her choice every day, including weekends and holidays. However, the amount your student reads, in terms of time and number of pages, is up to him/her.

Your student will have access to the over 300 books I have in my classroom library, as well as all of the books in the Fallbrook High School library, so you do not need to worry about going to the bookstore to buy books for your student (unless you want to, of course).

Every week, your student will ask you to sign a log indicating how much he/she read. Again, remember that there is no minimum requirement; however, your student is expected to read every day.

What can you do to help? Pay attention to your student. Please encourage your student to read. Talk to your student about what he/she is reading. If you don't already do so on a regular basis, try picking up a book as well to show your student that you believe reading is both fun and important.

With your help, I believe your student can make a positive change in his/her life or, if your student is already an avid reader, continue to develop a hobby that will benefit him/her throughout life.

If you have any questions about the program, my class, or your student's progress, please do not hesitate to contact me at alewis@fuhssd.net or (760)723-6300 x. 2206.

Sincerely,

Anastasia Lewis

Please sign and return the portion below, indicating that you have received and read the information about the class reading program.

Student

Date

Parent/Guardian

Date

Inglés 11 Programa de Leyendo Independiente

Letra a los Padres y Guardianes

Estimados Padres y/o Guardianes,

Como miembro de nuestra clase, su estudiante tendrá la oportunidad de tomar ventaja del poder de la literatura. Él/Ella recibirá el tiempo y la dirección para explorar mucha más literatura de lo que pudieron explorar en el pasado, para mejorar sus habilidades de leer, y para desarrollar un amor de leer.

Durante el curso de este semestre, esperen ver su estudiante leer un libro de la preferencia de el/ella cada día, incluyendo fines de semana y días de descanso. No obstante, la cantidad que su estudiante va a leer, en términos de tiempo y número de páginas, le consta a él/ella misma.

Su estudiante tendrá acceso a más de 300 libros en la biblioteca del salón de clase, y también todos los libros en la biblioteca de Fallbrook High School. Así es que no hay que preocuparse de comprar libros para su estudiante (a menos que lo desean hacer, por supuesto).

Cada semana, su estudiante les va a entregar una lista que indica cuánto él/ella ha leído para su firma. Otra vez, recuerden que no hay un requisito mínimo; pero se espera que su estudiante lea cada día.

Que pueden hacer para ayudar? Hay que poner atención a su estudiante. Por favor den ánimo a su estudiante que él/ella lea. Habla con su estudiante sobre lo que él/ella está leyendo. Si no tiene la costumbre, tomen la oportunidad de también leer y enseñar a su estudiante que leer libros es divertido y importante.

Con su ayuda, yo creo que su estudiante puede hacer un cambio positivo en su vida, si su estudiante es una persona que le gusta leer, continúe de desarrollar un pasatiempo que le va dar gran beneficio por toda la vida.

Si tienen alguna pregunta del programa, mi clase, o el progreso de su estudiante, me pueden contactar a cualquier tiempo a alewis@fuhisd.net o (760) 723-6300 x. 2206.

Sinceramente,

Anastasia Lewis

Firma de estudiante

Fecha

Firma de padre o guardián

Fecha

[Reading log](#)