

Independent Reading Assignment (IRA)

Research has repeatedly shown that students who read for pleasure tend to be better readers and writers. Reading a wide variety of writing styles exposes readers to a variety of different sentence patterns and vocabulary and therefore helps the reader develop his or her own written and oral language abilities. In addition, students who read frequently tend to be better students in general. Reading for pleasure can also be quite fun. Really!!!

You are expected to read nightly. Approximately every eight weeks you will be turning in an IRA. You will choose two of the following activities to complete each IRA. Each IRA project will be collected on the posted due date.

- IRA's are due approximately every eight weeks, at the beginning of class, and are worth twenty points per project.
- You may select books that are appropriate for your reading level, meet with your parents' approval, and are a minimum of 150 pages in length.
- IRA's should be typed, neatly printed or handwritten according to the format described below.
- IRA's that require pictures must be colored or computer generated and printed in color.
- A parent signature is also required for each IRA, upon choosing a book. Points will be deducted for a missing parent signature.
- **Each IRA needs to include a heading:**
 - **your first and last name, period and the date**
 - **the IRA # (IRA #1, #2, etc.-please refer to the calendar)**
 - **the title of the book that you are reading (please underline or italicize the title)**
 - **the name of the book's author**
 - **the genre of the book you are reading (science fiction, historical fiction, biography, fantasy, mystery, romance, etc.)**
 - **the total number of pages in the book (must be 150 pages minimum)**
- Points may be deducted from the overall score if the format is not followed
- Students may also be asked to redo the IRA if the requirements of the assignment are not met.

**** Please refer to the sample packet provided to see detailed examples of each option.**

Option 1: Reading Log

1. **Passages from the book-** The log must include **five excerpts** (a quote or passage from the book).
 - a. Cite the page number where your passage is located.
 - b. Put quotation marks around your passage.
2. **Responses-** You must then respond to the passage in 1-2 sentences. The following is a list of possible responses:
 - a. a question about the passage
 - b. a thought you have about the passage
 - c. a prediction about the passage
 - d. a comment regarding how the passage relates to your life
3. **Summary-** The summary must be a minimum of **three paragraphs with 5-7 sentences in each**, written in correct paragraph format. The summary should include elements of both characterization and plot, but should include only the most important elements.

Independent Reading Assignment (IRA)

Option 2: One Pager – must be completed on a blank sheet of computer paper

1. **Choose the most important part or your favorite part of the book.**
2. **Passages from the book-** The log must include **three excerpts** (quotations or passages from the book) from this part of the story.
 - a. Cite the page number where the passages are located.
 - b. Put quotation marks around the passages.
3. **Graphic Representation-** Include **a full page, colored drawing** (magazine pictures or computer graphics are also acceptable) that best represents the part of the story you chose. You may include one or more illustrations, but they should be the focus of the page. Your illustrations must be **in color**.
4. **Personal Response-** The response must be a minimum of **two paragraphs (5-7 sentences each)**, written in correct paragraph format. The response can be a commentary, interpretation, or summary of this part of the story.

Option 3: Comic Strip & Journal Entry - must be completed on a blank piece of computer paper that is divided into six sections

1. Square one- Include your heading (title, author, genre, name, period, date, pages, and box # of chosen event)
2. Choose the five most important events that occur within the book. In each square you will include the following items:
 - a. Image- A colored image that depicts the event
 - b. Narration- A one sentence narration of the scene
 - c. Quotation- One quotation from the event
3. Journal Entry (on a piece of lined paper or typed)- Using one of the characters and events from your comic strip, write a journal entry describing the event from his/her point of view (pretend you are the character in the book).
4. Format-
 - a. Dear Journal,
 - b. Two paragraph entry (5-7 sentences)
 - c. Closing (i.e. sincerely, and character's signature)

First Semester Due Dates:

IRA Book #1 _____

Project 1 Due Date: _____

Project 2 Due Date: _____

IRA Book #2 _____

Project 1 Due Date: _____

Project 2 Due Date: _____