

Accelerated Sophomore English I
Mrs. Bartoli
Independent Book Report



Each semester you will be sharing the joy of independent reading by submitting a book report to me. First semester books are to be selected from the list of “100 Most Recommended Books” or approved by me. This semester the focus is on classics; save contemporary titles for second semester. Think pre-1950.

Books you may not use for this project as they are taught in other classes include *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, *The Life of Pi*, *Ella Minnow Pea*, *Poisonwood Bible*, *Catch-22*, *Frankenstein*, *Cloud Atlas*, *Like Water for Chocolate*, *The Great Gatsby*, *The Awakening*, *The Catcher in the Rye*, *Brave New World*, *Lord of the Flies*, *The Kite Runner*, *Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet*, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, *Oedipus*.

Fiction

1. MLA formatted citation for the addition you read.
2. Author background relevant to the book. Cite your source(s) for this information using () citations and Works Cited entries. This is the **only** section that may be researched. Failure to cite properly is plagiarism. Explain why you chose this book.
3. Provide a **one** paragraph summary of the novel, including setting (time and place), description of major characters, main conflicts and resolutions. Spend another paragraph developing and explaining the **theme(s)**. A letter grade will be taken off for exceeding one page for the summary.
4. Chose one of the following or have another option approved by me:
 - a. Create a timeline of at least ten major events of the novel. Explain what happens and the significance of each event. Remember a timeline shows a chronology.
 - b. Choose ten important quotes or passages from the book. Identify the speaker and explain the importance of each passage.
 - c. Write a series of at least five “Dear Abby” letters written from the perspectives of different characters in the novel. The letters should reveal conflicts from the novel, as well as the feelings of the characters. Include responses of practical advice from Abby.
 - d. Create a soundtrack for your novel. Include at least five songs that have lyrics and music that complement your book. Include a written explanation of how the songs relate and where they best fit (what scene), citing specific lyrics. If possible, burn these songs onto a CD
5. What makes this novel a member of the “100 Most Recommended” list? What are the timeless themes still relevant to today or the future? Why? What were the biggest surprises or disappointments in the novel? Explain.

Only one project per novel so claim your choice early and sign up ASAP. Any last minute repeats will be down graded one letter grade. Although answers may be numbered, the paper should follow MLA guidelines for formatting.