Book Report Assignment

You may sigh when your teacher assigns a book report project, but writing about the works of others is one of the best ways to expand your literary horizons. Book reports allow you to connect to the author’s purpose by examining the characters, plot, and theme of the work. The following information will help you to organize a concise, but thorough book report. Although your paper may vary slightly, this format will guide you through the necessary paragraphs of your report.

**All reports should be submitted to our Google Classroom site.** Place your name in the upper left hand corner of all pages. Typed papers must be in 12 or 14 pt., and standard fonts. Please double space and be sure to proofread your report (and have an adult read it back to you). You are expected to have any spelling, punctuation, and grammar errors corrected.

**Standard Format for Book Reports:**

# Introductory paragraph

This paragraph should include the title of the book and name of the author. It should also have the publisher and publication date listed. You should give a brief summary of the book, highlighting the main theme and plot line (think about what a movie trailer or book jacket might say). Don’t get too detailed here; it’s just the introduction of what is to follow.

# Body Paragraphs

This is where the real content enters the picture. By reading this part of your book report (five to six paragraphs), I will be able to determine whether you thoroughly read the book and understood the story content.

Begin by describing the main character/s of the story. Don’t get side tracked with irrelevant characters. Describe both physical appearance and, more importantly, personality traits (with supporting with details from the text). Additionally, you may want to include major actions and qualities of the characters. Be sure to include both the protagonists and antagonists within the story when appropriate, and feel free to discuss changes they go through (static vs. dynamic characters). The theme of the story is often intertwined within the characters…feel free to express that.

Describe the conflicts (both internal and external) that occur within the story. Common conflicts include: man vs. man, man vs. nature, and man vs. himself. Be sure to describe the conflict/s in detail and their importance within the plot and theme. How was the main character/s challenged and how did they handle that challenge? **Do not just state that the conflict was “man vs. nature,” but rather what the actual conflict/s were.**

The remaining body paragraphs should **briefly** summarize the plot (beginning, middle, end),and describe how it relates to the theme and conflicts within the storyline (I don't want a retelling, but a highlighting of the transitioning events). They should include the rising action, main events, and the climax. Finally, describe the falling action and resolution of the story (**focus on what major life-lesson or change did the main character learn or go through?**). You will also want to address the setting (time, place, culture, etc.) and how it relates to the characters and story line; you should choose the most appropriate place to discuss the setting.

# Conclusion

This is the proper place to sum up the key points of the report, including restating the main theme of the book. What message or advice did the author want to leave the reader with? What did you learn from the text? It is also a good place to state your personal opinion of the book, supporting it with details.

# Supporting details

All good papers **use examples and dialog directly** from the book to back-up comments about the piece; you are required to add at least three examples of text evidence that are not superficial to the storyline/character/theme. Be sure to use the proper MLA citation, including page number when referencing text. Example: “Text quotes are within the quotation marks, and followed by page number” (author's last name, page #).