

# Read, Read & Read!

## Grade 8

Students who are better readers achieve higher grades in school, enjoy school more and have a better chance of being life-long learners. In order to become better at reading, a person must read! Like many skills, reading must be practiced. It's the books we choose for ourselves which are often the most meaningful to us.

To start, you are to identify five books which you will read during the course of this school year. You will be expected to complete one of the books in term one, two in term two and two in term three. The books you choose to read, however, must fit into the following criteria:

### **☐ Authored by a Canadian**

At least one of the books you choose to read this school year is to be authored by a Canadian writer. Canada's literature often reflects the Canadian perspective on:

(1) nature, (2) frontier life, and (3) Canada's position in the world. It provides students with the opportunity to better acquaint themselves with what being Canadian means.

### **☐ Mystery/Suspense Genre**

Love a great who-dunnit? If you love playing detective and matching wits with both the criminals and their pursuers, then Mystery and Suspense titles are sure to please. While mysteries keep you guessing until the end, in suspense novels you often know who the bad guy is up front. The focus shifts from determining who committed the crime to why or how. Both genres are designed to make you think and readers are more engaged in reading if they are actively involved and questioning the text.

### **☐ Environmental/ Adventure**

There are many books now with an environmental theme or focus or simply a great "survival" adventure story. Some author's of this genre are: Farley Mowat, Carl Hiaasen, David Klass, Edward Abbey, Harry Harrison, or book titles such as "touching the void", Everest, the River, Hatchet, Call of the Wild,

### **☐ Award Winning**

Choosing an award-winning book generally guarantees that you will be reading a story that will broaden your horizons and expose you to writing that is well considered, detailed, and intricate. Reading award-winning books lets you discover great writers and great writing.

### **☐ Novel vs Movie**

While the actual act of reading is something that many of us prefer to do in isolation, the experience is not something that many can or should keep to themselves. Watching a movie made from a book provides another's perspective on books. Sometimes the movie is nothing like "the movie in our head" while reading a book. Find a book that has been made into a movie. READ THE BOOK FIRST then watch the movie.... compare.

# Read, Read, Read Assignments

□ **Authored by a Canadian** – So, what does being Canadian mean? Create an outline (mind meister can be useful for this) of this book's literary elements (characters, settings, conflicts, themes...) then identify the ways in which this text reflects elements of the Canadian culture (language, beliefs, traditions, food, clothing...) and history. The final product can be a poster, a collage, a mini-booklet which displays and explains how the book is Canadian.

□ **Mystery/Suspense Genre** - create two character profiles, one for the protagonist and one for the antagonist. The profiles are to provide evidence from the text (characters' own words and actions) to support the character traits you assign them. Profiles are to also explain reasons for any changes the characters undergo through the story. You can choose how you will present your profiles. Some examples are to create a "Wanted" poster, a psychological profile, an employment advertisement or Job Description.

□ **Environmental/ Adventure** –Your job is to create a quadrarama (a quadrarama is four triaramas put together) that will entice others to read your novel. You will need to create four triaramas, each showing one of the following elements of your novel: plot, setting, character (focus on the protagonist here)Your fourth triarama should depict one of your favourite scenes from the novel. Each of your four triaramas must also include a brief written explanation. Your quadrarama will be presented to the class and displayed in our room.

□ **Award Winning** – So, now that you've had your horizon's broadened, identify one issue that this text exposed you to and do a little further research on it. Use what you discovered through the book and your research to develop an informative presentation of your own on the issue.

□ **Novel versus Movie** - Consider how the inclusion or exclusion of literary elements (character, plot, setting...) enhance the stories. Consider how the use of or writing/literary techniques (simile, foreshadowing, repetition...) versus film techniques (camera angle, film speed, background music...) enhance the story. Did specific literary techniques used by the author more effectively develop the story for you than the film techniques used by the movie producer? You may choose how you will present this assignment, one example would be a Venn diagram.

## Due Dates

*students will get to use one class period per 6 day cycle to read or work on these*

- *Authored by a Canadian – November 17, 2015*
- *Mystery/Suspense – January 13, 2017*
- *Environmental/Adventure Genre – March 10, 2017*
- *Award Winning– April 28, 2017*
- *Novel vs Movie – June 2, 2017*