

All Grade 9 Advanced English students are required to read three books selected from the GENERAL READING LIST FOR GRADE 9 **and** to complete three projects based on these books. Since these three projects will count as two test grades, failure to complete them and turn them in on time may result in failure of the first quarter.

1. All work must be **typed, double-spaced, in a standard 12 font.**
2. Type your name in the header so that it appears on each page.
3. Number each page in the center of the footer.
4. Staple the “Cover Letter” on top of your work.
5. After reading a book on the grade nine general reading list, decide which project would best suit that book. You must read three different books and complete the three different projects.
6. All work is due the first week of school (exact date to be announced) and work will not be accepted late. Deadlines are very important in advanced high school classes.

Project #1

Creative Response

After reading the book, make a collage of pictures on a standard-sized piece of typing paper (8 ½ by 11) that illustrates themes, events, characters, settings, and conflicts from the book. You can take pictures from magazines, draw pictures, or create a computer graphic collage. Fill the paper completely—the most meaningful, effective collages are those with much to see. Then on a separate piece of paper, type a one page, double-spaced explanation of where the pictures came from, how the pictures relate to the book, and why you placed them where you did. You might want to think about space and how your pictures can be arranged or grouped to make a point. Include the **title of the book and the author on both your collage and in the first sentence of your paper.** Grade will be based on effort, neatness, originality, reason for choices, quality and quantity of pictures and reasons behind the choices.

Project #2

Book Club Talk Show

After reading the book, write a transcript of a talk show in which a fictional book club that you create discusses the book. A transcript is like a script for a play. It is line-by-line dialogue of what your characters say. Create three characters and host such as Oprah who introduces explains why the book was chosen, briefly describes the plot of the book, directs/ focuses the conversation, and moderates the discussion.

Before the actual conversation, supply some brief narration that tells a little about the host’s and the characters’ background. Example:

Rita is a housewife with three children. She spends her days driving them to soccer practice, cooking meals, and studying for her college degree. When she finds herself with one of those rare free moments, she reads as much as she can.

She has come to our show with very strong opinions about the protagonist in *Hanging on to Max* and cannot wait to share them with the rest of the club.

After the brief character descriptions, proceed to write the conversation in script style. It should look like this:

Rita: (smiling---or some other stage note)[This is the space for Rita’s dialogue.]

Bob: (eagerly responding)

Your transcript should be at least two pages, typed, double-spaced. The title and author of the book should be clearly stated in your introductory narration. Your characters should discuss topics such as themes, character, and conflicts in the book. They should target the issues that really concern them and speak with interest and enthusiasm. Grade will be based on **how much insight into the book your characters provide** or the quality/ meaningful nature of their discussion, spelling, grammar, punctuation, quantity, and effort.

Project #3

Thesis Essay

After reading the book, decide what you would like to prove (about characters, theme, or conflict) in a short essay. The thesis sentence is the statement that the writer would like to prove in the paper. Example: “In *A Separate Peace* by John Knowles, Gene’s jealousy leads him to destroy both his friendship with Phineas and Phineas’ life.” Your essay should be at least two pages, typed, double-spaced and follow this structure:

1. Paragraph 1= a brief summary of the plot with the last sentence as your thesis sentence
2. Paragraph 2= first point and paraphrased evidence that proves your thesis
3. Paragraph 3= second point and paraphrased evidence that proves your thesis
4. Paragraph 4= third point and quoted evidence that proves your thesis
5. Paragraph 5= Conclusion

Although you may never have written an essay like this before, just do your best work and refer to specific incidents in the book to prove your thesis. Grade will be based on how purposeful your thesis is, how well you use evidence from the book to prove your thesis, spelling, grammar, punctuation, and effort. I realize this is your first formal essay, just show me your best work based on how you interpret these directions and do not use any secondary sources.

Cover letter: On top of your work, write a letter (friendly letter format) to me describing why you chose the books that you did, how you went about completing your summer reading, and what part was the most rewarding/ interesting for you to complete. This is a letter describing your thought process and reflecting on what you did. The tone should be friendly, interested, and motivated as it is my first impression of you as a student and of your written work. Enjoy your reading and see you in the fall!