**First Semester Independent Reading Project.**

Due Dates: September 30th and December 9th

**Assignment**: Through the course of this year, you are to develop your reading stamina and fluency. Select a book of your choice that is of an appropriate reading level, at least 200 pages long (ie. No Captain Underpants).

**Process**: We will have silent sustained reading most Fridays. You are to have your selected book in your possession at the beginning of the period. The goal is to complete at least ONE book and project per quarter. Depending on how fast you read, you may have to spend some time outside of class reading as well.

***Participation (5pts per day):***  You are to have a book with you on Fridays. During the class, I need to see you engaged in reading the selected book. Being engaged with your book counts as participation credit for this activity. Being distracted or forgetting to bring your book to class will result in zero participation credit. You will still have to read something from my class library.

***Reading Response*: During the course of your reading, I will require three written responses.**

**Directions**: You are to write three **fully** developed responses to the book you have selected. EACH SECTION SHOULD BE AT LEAST ONE PAGE (250-300 words). I will collect this journal at different points during the year, comment on and evaluate your progress in developing reading stamina and fluency.

***Part ONE: Before you start (25pts)***

Answer all four questions and write a response of at least a page

1. Please tell me the title and author of the book. Why did you choose it?
2. What genre is your book (fiction, biography, a play, historical non-fiction, etc)?
3. In one to two paragraphs, reflect on your habits as a reader (HOW do you read? Do you like it?). Have you changed at all since the beginning of the year? Do you read at home? Why? Why not?
4. After first few pages: What do you notice about the book? What about the writing style? The set up of the book? How does the author use language (lots of imagery, metaphors, dialogue, etc)?

***Half way through the book (25pts)***

Select two to three questions and write responses of at least a page. Do not tell me the story; I want to hear your reaction to the text. If you simply tell me what happens in the book, you will have to rewrite these responses. I want to know what do you like, hate, or are curious about?

**Fiction Questions**

1. What character qualities strike you as a good characteristics to develop within yourself over the years? Why? How does the character demonstrate this quality?
2. Do any incidents, ideas, or action in this work remind you of your own life or something that happened to you? Explain.
3. Are there any parts of this work that were confusing to you? Which parts? Why do you think you got confused?
4. Do you feel there is an opinion expressed by the author through this work? What is it? How do you know this? Do you agree? Why or why not?
5. Do you think the title of this work is appropriate? Is it significant? Explain. What does the title mean?

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6. What kind of person do you feel the author is? What makes you feel this way?

7. How did this work make you feel? Explain.

8. Do you share any of the feelings of the characters in this work? Explain.

9. What do you feel is the most important word, phrase, passage, or paragraph in this work? Explain why it is important.

**Non- Fiction Questions**

1. What is the most interesting thing you’ve learned or read about in this book so far?
2. What would make this book more interesting or easier to understand?
3. Are there any parts of this work that were confusing to you? Which parts? Why do you think you got confused?
4. Do you feel there is an opinion expressed by the author through this work? What is it? How do you know this? Do you agree? Why or why not?
5. Do you think the title of this work is appropriate? Is it significant? Explain. What does the title mean?

6. What kind of person do you feel the author is? What makes you feel this way?

7. How did this work make you feel? Explain.

***After finishing the Book (25PTS):***

In this full page response, I want you to look at what you wrote at the beginning of the novel, the middle of the novel, and compare that to what you now know at the end. Select one of the following questions to help you develop this response.

1. Sometimes works leave you with the feeling that there is more to tell. Did this work do this? What do you think might happen?

2. Would you like to read something else by this author? Why or why not?

3. Did you like this piece of work? Why or why not?

1. If you were an English teacher, would you want to share this work with your students? Why or why not?
2. What are you going to take away from this book? It could be a scene, a memory, or even simply a personal reading achievement.
3. What about this book did you find interesting? What did you learn from it?