English 9 Honors Name:

Mr. Fisher

Sorry Students, You Are on Your Own: An Independent Reading Assignment

Introduction: On July 4, 1776, our country’s founders signed a Declaration of Independence, and more than 200 years later, we are still celebrating this day as Independence Day. Well, on December 11, 2017, your English Teacher (as)signed a Reading of Independence, and 200 years from now, I suspect you’ll still be groaning about it. Well, stop your whining and celebrate your independence! YOU get to pick a book YOU want to read! And then, do you know what? You get to read the book! And if you don’t like it, you can’t blame your teacher this time! That’s right—this one won’t be my fault! Ha! Of course if you do like the book, you may take some of the credit, but the bulk of the credit goes to your teacher! I assigned it, after all! Ha! This is fun! I need to assign ORBs (Outside Reading Books) more often!

Picking Your Book: Your book must…

* Be a novel or play (no short stories or non-fiction!)
* Show up on some “legitimate” high school reading list online
* Not be a book that is taught in this school
* Must be approved by Mr. Fisher

Getting Your Project Approved:

* You must submit a proposal (no longer than a page).
* On this proposal, you must state on what list you saw the book, the book’s length, and why you want to read it.

A Note From Your Teacher: Okay, guys, Mr. Fisher here. I know you are all busy. I know you are tired. I know you are overwhelmed. I have been there too! And now, here is an assignment that will take hours and hours to complete. So let me just answer the question that is on your mind: How will I know if you pick a book you have already read? So, yeah, I probably won’t know. I’m counting on you to be honest. I will now make a heart-felt plea that I will not write down…

After Picking Your Book:

* You will read your book.
* You will work on ONE of the following projects and hand it in.

Project Options:

1. Make a children’s book version of your book (with text and pictures)
2. Write 5 poems about various aspects of your book. For each poem, you must write a paragraph explaining it and its connection to the book.
3. Write a diary for one of the characters in the book. The diary should have at least 10 entries.
4. Write an alternative ending to the one presented in your book (2-5 pages)
5. Make a video of part of the story presented in your book.
6. Create a parody (video or written) of your book.
7. Make a graphic novel version of your book
8. Create a board game based on your book.
9. Create a soundtrack (5-7 songs) for your book and write a long paragraph about each song you choose and how it connects to the scene of the book when it would be played.
10. Write a literary essay (pick your own argument) about the book. (5 paragraphs, at least two quotations in each body paragraph). The “Department Rubric” will be used if you choose this option.
11. A Creative Project that I have not yet thought of, that can show your understanding of the book. (Must get my approval first)

Grade: You will be graded based on the following Rubric (Unless Option #10 is Chosen):

Failing Poor Flawed Good Nearly Perfect

Use of Detail 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Analysis 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Creativity 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Effort/Presentation/

Neatness 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Overall quality of Writing/

Script: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Grade: /50🡪 /100

Dates to Remember:

* Book Proposals Are Due on Wednesday, 12/13
* Projects are due: Wednesday, 1/31.