

LWA Summer Reading Assignment 2019

Honors American Literature Creative Project

In preparation for the Honors American Literature course, you will need to read, reflect and create. Choose one of the three books that you read for the English summer reading assignment and create an independent project. Choose ONE of the project options below that you feel best suits your interests and strengths. You must submit this project on **the first day of school**. Please be prepared to present this project in a class Gallery Walk.

Writing Projects

- ❑ **Keep a Diary or Journal in the Voice of a Character From the Book:** You can follow the events of the novel and give your chosen character's impressions and reflections on those events. Be sure to go beyond the obvious. Sure, she might have been sad when her father died, but how would she write about that in a journal? What thoughts are racing through her mind? Who does she turn to for support? Is there any anger or frustration in her voice? Perhaps a sense of relief? Pick this project if you feel like the book's characters really came alive for you.
- ❑ **Write Letters Between Characters:** This project can be done in two ways. You could write letters back and forth between two characters from your book. Or you could think outside the box a bit more and write letters between one character in your book and another person from literature or history. What would they say to each other? How would they get along? What stories might they share? Choose this project if you think interaction between characters is more interesting than introspection from one character.
- ❑ **Discover the Book's Relevance for You:** If you like to write personal essays, full of your own opinions, don't limit yourself to a blasé "I liked this book because..." kind of review. Think about what--aside from liking or not liking it--you got out of reading this novel. Did the plot help you in some way to become a better person? Or perhaps your book made you realize something that you *don't* want to do. Select this project if you consider yourself opinionated and like to share your views.

Crafty Projects

- ❑ **Design a CD Cover and Burn a Playlist for Your Book:** If your book's characters and themes reminded you of songs you love, go ahead and use that inspiration for your project. Design a cool looking CD cover that relates to your book, and in the CD booklet, include the reasons you chose each song (i.e. how they related to the story's characters, plot points, theme, or tone). This project works especially well for books about road trips, but can certainly be used for any kind of story. Choose this project if music is your life.
- ❑ **Get Crafty With Cartography (That's Mapmaking, FYI):** Look back closely at the places that were important in your book, and illustrate a map that shows where they all are in relation to one another. Then create a key in which you explain why each place is

so important to the story. This works well with books in which the location is really important, but can be adapted to all sorts of stories. Select this project if you're known for your close attention to detail.

- ❑ **Depict Literature through Artistic Interpretation:** Perhaps your book is highly interpretive and symbolic. Pretend you have just been hired to create an art show of 3-5 pieces that depict key moments or ideas from the text. You can use any visual medium (acrylic paint, watercolor, pastel etc.) to create an artistic interpretation of the novel. As in an art gallery, each piece should have a label with title, date and description. Choose this option if you are craving the platform for making your next masterpiece.

Computer Projects

- ❑ **Build a Facebook Page or Twitter Account for a Character:** It's easy to set up a fictional Facebook or twitter account for a character from your book. Fill up your profile with the kinds of things that your chosen character would be into. If you've got a friend who read the same summer reading book, you could really wow your teacher and each set up an account for a different character. That way you could comment back and forth on each other's pages. Pick this project if you're into social media sites.
- ❑ **Make a Mini-Movie About Your Book:** If you're lucky enough to have advanced movie making software (like iMovie, for instance) on your computer, go make your masterpiece. If not, don't worry. If you have Windows, chances are you have [Movie Maker](#) without even knowing about it. If it's your first time making a movie on the computer, though, think about downloading [Microsoft's Photo Story](#). It's free and simple to use and has enough features (photo effects, neat transitions, the ability to add music) that you can create a pretty cool product. Choose this project if you dream about being the next Steven Spielberg or M. Night Shyamalan.
- ❑ **Give a PowerPoint Presentation:** I admit they're not exactly cutting-edge technology anymore, but don't overlook the possibility of a PowerPoint presentation. If you're smart, you can take advantage of the many features they now include, like sound effects and animation. Be careful, though; you don't want to distract your audience from the content of your presentation. Well-done PowerPoints only use the flashy features when they add to the content or highlight it. This kind of project works especially well if you happened to read a nonfiction book for summer reading. Select this project if you want to show off your technology *and* public speaking skills.

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