

Book Journal and Trailer

End of the Year Project for 7/8th Grade Literature

Prepared by Mrs. Wolf

OVERVIEW & PURPOSE

-To identify the elements of a story and use critical thinking skills to respond to journal prompts

-To communicate the basic plot and “sell” the story to the class, through a trailer, to encourage new options for summer reading

ACTIVITY

1. **Read the book.** Each student will be assigned a book to read over the next 2-3 weeks. Students will have class time to read, but should expect that they may need to continue to read at home.

(20 points)

2. **Journal prompts.** While reading through their book, students will respond to journal prompts. All responses must be typed as a complete paragraph (4-6 sentences). The first three journal prompts on the handout are required, and then you will choose four more to respond to. Be sure to number which one you are answering.

(50 points)

3. **Presentation (live or taped ahead).** Finally, each student will present a book trailer to the class. This is basically like a movie trailer, as it will give your audience (the class) an idea of what the book is about (main character, main plot point/conflict, but it won't give away the ending). We will view a few examples in class to give you an idea of what you will be creating. Trailers should be approximately 90-120 seconds.

(30 points)

Here are some ways to present your book trailer:

- Do it “live”: no technology and a prepared presentation with the above elements included
- Use iMovie to video and then show it to the class
- Record on a phone and put the recording onto a flashdrive to then show at school
- Upload to YouTube and load and show at school
- Use the _____ app which allows you to add in emojis/pics and then uploads it to youtube
- Use Canva to create slides/graphics to enhance your “live” presentation

Here are some things to think about when putting together your book trailer:

- Start with a good lead in or hook. Consider using a question to engage the class.
- Introduce the book by showing it to the class and mentioning the author.
- Communicate the basics: main characters, setting, problem/conflict, but do NOT give away the ending. A good trailer will leave the audience hanging in suspense and wanting to find out what happens.
- End with a cliffhanger!
- Presentation tips: Look at your classmates, speak clearly, use expression, show enthusiasm, and hit the main points!
- Practice it ahead of time. Try not to read word for word from your notecards or even better, memorize it!

Due Monday, May 22nd

REQUIRED

1. What is the problem or conflict of your book? Which characters are involved? How do you think the problem or conflict might be solved?

Start out: The conflict or problem in my book is...

2. What is the setting of your story? Remember that setting is both place and time of the story. Your book will most likely not tell you exactly when and where it takes place, but you can find clues in the story. Is this a modern story (computers, video games, shopping malls, etc.)? Does it take place in a city, suburb, or farm area? Be sure to tell the clues that give the setting of your story.

Start out: My story takes place... I can tell because...

3. Who is the main character in your book? What is this character like? Tell the character's name, age, appearance, friends, personality, problems, etc. How did the main character in your book change or grow from the beginning to end?

Start out: The main character of my book is...

Start out: The main character changed...

OPTIONS (CHOOSE FOUR)

4. Describe a minor character in your book. Identify the character by name and describe him/her. What is the character's part in the story? How does this character feel about the main character and vice-versa? Use examples from the story.

Start out: A minor character in my book is...

5. Are the events in your book realistic or unrealistic? Could they really happen, are they fantasy, or a mix of both? Explain using specific examples from the book.

Start out: My book is realistic/unrealistic because...

6. How does your book begin? First describe the events that start your story. Then tell if this is a good, effective way for the author to start the book. Explain why or why not. What would you change?

Start out: My book begins... This is a good/bad way to start the story because...

7. Would you like to live like the characters in your book? Explain how they live (the situation) and why or why not you would like to live like that.

Start out: I would/would not like to live like my characters because...

8. If you were the main character in your book, how would you handle the situation he or she faces in the story? Be sure to briefly describe the situation before telling how you would handle it.

Start out: If I were the main character in my book I would...

9. What do you think of the title of your book? Is it a good title? "Does it fit your book? Why do you think the author chose this title? Explain how the title fits the book or make up a better title and tell why the new title is better.

Start out: The title of my book is... This is a good/bad title because... The author chose this title because...

-or-

I think_____ is a better title because...

10. Predict what will happen next in your book. To do this you must briefly explain the situation, make your prediction, and tell why you predict this.

Start out: The situation in my book is...

11. Who is the antagonist (bad guy) in your book? Describe this character and the way they “oppose” or work against the main character.

Start out: The antagonist of my book is...

12. What hints (foreshadowing) did the author give us about how the story would end?

Start out: The hints the author gave...