

Hancock Day School

Rising 4th Grade Summer Reading

Students will read one of these novels and write a book report.

1. Summer of the Swans by Betsy Byars
2. The Courage of Sarah Noble by Alice Dalgliesh
3. Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing by Judy Blume
4. Rabbit Hill by Robert Lawson
5. A Toad for Tuesday by Russell E. Erickson

The book report can be typed or handwritten. The report must have a cover page with an illustration and either stapled or place in a report cover.

Parents may guide the students with this report; however we want to see what the students can write on their own. Students will read these reports aloud in class the first week, so make sure the report is written THEIR own words.

Book Report

- I. **Introductory Paragraph**
 - A. **The first sentence** should state the title of the book and the author's name.
 - B. **The second sentence** should tell how many pages the book has and the name of the publisher.
 - C. **The third sentence** can state basic bibliographic information about the book. Bibliographic information means not only the author and title but also what company published the book, what year it was published in and any other relevant information. (See copyright page and the back of the title page.)
 - D. **The next sentence** should state the reason(s) you decided to read this book. Why did you choose this particular book? Typical reasons might be:
 - o You like the author.
 - o You like this type of book (i.e. mystery, western, adventure or romance, etc.).
 - o Someone recommended the book to you.
 - o It was on a required reading list.
 - o You liked the cover.
 - E. **An optional sentence can be used** if the cover (back cover) of the book gives you any additional information then, add a sentence with that information.
 - o Was the book a best seller?
 - o Are there X million copies in print?
 - o Did it win any major awards?

II. Main Character(s) Paragraph

A. The first sentence of this paragraph should state who the main character or characters of the book are, and why they are important.

B. Other Characters

You should compose at least one sentence for each of the other important characters in the book. State the name of each of the other important characters, and the key role that each one plays in the book

III. Plot Summary Paragraph

a. This is perhaps the hardest paragraph to write in five sentences or so. If you have to write a bit more don't worry.

i. Here are the main points to cover:

1. State the type of book (Mystery, Western, etc.).
2. Setting: place, time period, location, etc.
3. What is the main character trying to do?
4. What is the outcome of the book?

b. Make sure you cover all of the major parts of the plot. You might have to go back through the book, chapter by chapter, and make a few notes.

IV. Personal Impressions and Conclusion Paragraph

a. Simply talk about what you liked or did not like about the book. Use this paragraph as your conclusion. It should summarize your overall impressions of the book and bring the report to a close.

- i. Start with a sentence that states that you are now writing a conclusion. (For example: "My final thoughts on")
- ii. Restate your reasons why you liked and/or disliked the book using different words.
- iii. Write two sentences that talk about the book's good points and weak points and what you learned from the book.
- iv. Close with a sentence that states whether you would recommend the book to others.

Typically, your book report should not exceed two double-spaced pages.