

# Homework Menu #5



name: \_\_\_\_\_

date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:** For For homework this month you will be working on and completing projects of your choice. Below is a list of projects that you may choose from. If you have an idea of your own which is not listed, check with Russ for permission to try it. As you complete each project you will have a chance to share it with your classmates. Some projects may take more time than others to finish. To keep track of the time you spend on your homework projects, you and your parents will complete a Homework Time Sheet that is to be turned in each Friday. When you finish one project, begin working on your next project as soon as you can. All projects will be due no later than the nearest Friday to the end of the month. At that time a new menu will be given out.

**Focus of the Month:** Books and Reading

**Skills included:** Reading comprehension, research, analysis, interpreting/infering, critiquing, written and oral communication, sequencing, artistic representation, descriptive and expository writing.

## Project Menu:

- Read a book of your choice. When you have finished, make a map showing every important place described in the book. Bonus idea: try to make your map look as if it was made during the same time period as the story.
- Find a book that you are interested in reading that has had a movie made of it. Be sure to choose a book and movie combination that you have not read or seen before. Write a review of both the book and the movie, comparing and contrasting both. Include which you liked better and why. Don't forget to include a number of detailed examples from both the book and the movie to support your choice of which you liked most. Bonus idea: sometimes a story is so good that there have been many different versions of it created. One example is Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol, even Disney created an animation of this story. Find another version of the story you have read and watched, perhaps an older one, and include it in your critique.
- Use the Internet to go to the Reading the Genres web site. It is at the following URL: <http://www.multiage-education.com/multiagelessons/allaboutreading/index.html> . Choose any of the genres listed there and complete one or more of the activities suggested. (NOTE: a number of the links on this website are outdated)
- Read a complete book series. While reading take a few notes about the personality of the main character or characters. When you have finished reading the series, create a way to show how the main character(s) grows or changes over time and between books. Include specific examples from the story to illustrate your points. Bonus idea: make a timeline poster to help you with your presentation.



□ Some books have been made into plays, but not many of them. Write a script for a short play based on a book you read that you feel deserves to be "immortalized" in this way. Be sure to include lots of details so that actors can do a good job portraying the characters. Bonus idea: create a poster advertising your new play.

□ Choose three books to read: a good book, a mediocre book, and a bad book. After finishing all three, create a rating system or a rubric to evaluate other children's books. Use a scale such as 1 to 3, 1 to 5, or 1 to 10 and define each number as a quality of the book. Include characters and setting among the qualities you describe. Bonus idea: have other students, family members, or friends try out your rating system on some books they have read. Use their feedback to help you refine your system.



□ Interview people in several different age groups such as kids, teenagers, parents, and grandparents. Find out what their favorite children's books are/were. Compile this information to find out if there are any trends. Does one age group like a certain type of book more than another? What book was mentioned most in each group? Which book was mentioned most in all the groups combined? Bonus idea: create a graph to help you present the results of your interviews to the class.

□ Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Expectations:** It is expected that chosen projects will be finished completely, neatly, and in a timely manner. It is also expected that students will gain a depth of understanding about their project's topic upon completion. Further, while students are encouraged to work on one project at a time, it is entirely possible for students to complete any number of projects in the timeframe given. Students should also remember to keep homework interesting by challenging themselves to learn as much as possible and to do the best work they can.



**Important:** These projects will likely require mutual involvement of students and their parents. They also cannot be completed in one short evening prior to the due date. Each student will have to use their time wisely, doing a little bit at a time until a project is complete. Use the Project Planning Form to help you successfully complete your project on time.



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