

## *Contemporary Young Adult Authors* Reading Project

- Choose a novel from the author list provided. It should be a book you haven't read. It should be at your reading level, but not too easy! Try the five finger method of checking the level.
- Make a schedule for yourself that lists your plan for finishing the novel, such as 20 pages per night, or two chapters per night. **Plan to finish the book by March 22, 2007**
- Use this checklist to complete the project. You must do all portions to earn full credit.

### 1. Cover Page

- Include the author and title of the book, along with your name and date. Decorate the cover page to reflect the theme of the book. Do NOT just copy the cover of the book! This should be your own, original ideas.

### 2. Author Research Page

Conduct research on your novel's author by using either the internet or any resource from the library that will provide ample information to complete this page. You may complete this page by doing **one** of the possibilities which follow:

1. Type a script for a television interview show where you, as interviewer, ask a minimum of six questions which you will answer with the details gathered in your research. Be sure you write the interview in the proper format.
2. Pretend you are the best friend of your author and you are introducing him/her to an audience. Use details gathered in your research to highlight his/her accomplishments in a typed speech.

**Be sure that you credit the sources from which you received your information at the bottom of this page in the correct format (MLA).**

### 3. Reading Log Pages

Complete a reading log for the book. It must list the date, which pages you read, give a short summary of what you read each day, and a short reaction (what you think and feel). Use the chart provided.

Date	Pages	Summary	Reaction
03/01/07	1- 20	Janie, the main character, lives with her grandmother because her father is dead and mother ran away.	I feel bad for Janie, having been rejected by her mother. I would feel angry and hurt.

### 4. Vocabulary Pages

Complete a VOCABULARY LIST of 20 words from the novel that were new or unfamiliar to you

or were used in a different way. Use the chart provided.

Word	Page #	The sentence	Dictionary definition	ORIGINAL sentence
Demurely	24	Becca nodded demurely.	characterized by shyness and modesty; reserved	The child demurely hid behind his mother.

## 5. Character Page

Complete **one** of the following assignments :

- Look through the newspaper want ads and find a job that you think would suit a main character in your novel. Compose and type a **letter of application or resume** for the character to apply for the job. Be sure to highlight your character's experience, skills and positive characteristics. Consult internet sites to see how to compose a resume or letter of application.
- Surmise where the characters of your novel will be in twenty years. Pretend they're reunited 20 years after the time in which your story takes place. In a **conclusion to the story**, describe what their jobs, relationships etc. will be like. Make sure you support your conclusions by stating why you think the characters turned out this way.
- In a **letter**, pretend you are describing a main character in your novel to a friend. Type a complete description of any main character. Be sure to include physical appearance and personal characteristics. Draw sketches of the person. Cite examples from the story to support your description.
- Interview a main character in your novel. Make up interview questions (and answers) and write a **magazine article** entitled "My Interview with..." You should have a minimum of 5 questions which are answered. This does not look like a script, it should include details of the setting of the interview and descriptions of how the person moved and reacted to the questions.
- Write an **eulogy** for a main character. A eulogy is a great piece of writing used to entertain people about a person's life, to acknowledge people who have passed away and to remember them in a special way. Eulogies are usually read at funerals. Eulogies provide information about the deceased person including personal quotes and stories, but most of all with the love that the reader had and always will have for that person.

## 6. Setting - Two Part

1. Type a complete paragraph describing the setting of your novel. Describe the time period and location your story takes place and use details from the story to "show" the setting, not just tell about it. If the setting is in more than one place, explain why it moves and describe the new setting. This part of the setting assignment is mandatory.
2. Complete one art project from the choices below (Don't use lined paper, but rather, plain white paper.)

- Make a map to show where the action takes place in the novel. Put labels on the map to show what happened at each place.
- Create a shoebox diorama of a scene from your novel.
- Design a bedroom for your main character considering the time of the story and your character's characteristics and preferences. Label your diagram.
- Design a stage setting for a dramatic production of your novel. Being on stage limits the space you can use, but you can change scenery. You may build it in 3D or draw it. Show how it would change scenes.

## 7. Review

Write a REVIEW of the book. Tell what you liked/disliked about the book, or how you would change the book to improve the book if you could. Explain whether you would suggest this book to your friends, and why you would or would not tell them to read it. The review must not just tell me the story; it must give your OPINION. The review must be at least five paragraphs. Check the Write Source 2000 for an example.

## 8. Quiz

Pretend you are the teacher and you are going to give the class a "quiz" on the novel. Create a quiz for the book. You should include a variety of types of questions, such as multiple choice, matching, short answer. The quiz must have 30 points and you must include an answer key on a separate sheet.

### FORMAT:

- Put your project into a binder, duotang or portfolio and keep all parts of it together. You must turn in everything at once.
- Label each part of the project.
- Your report must be NEAT and legible. You can do it in your own handwriting, or you can type it on the computer.
- Please do the project with little or no assistance from your parents or brothers or sisters. They can help you type it if you want, but the work must be your own.

**PLEASE DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE TO DO THE PROJECT.**

You should work on the project WHILE you are reading the book.

- You should begin your vocabulary list and write in your book log as you read.
- Start by researching and writing about the author.
- Begin designing the character and setting parts of the project.
- Write test questions as you read.

## Contemporary Young Adult Authors

S.E. Hinton  
Lois Duncan  
Mildred Taylor  
Robert Cormier  
Paul Zindel  
Cynthia Voigt  
Chris Crutcher  
Richard Peck  
Gary Paulsen  
Christopher Paul Curtis  
Jerry Spinelli  
Gary Soto  
Karen Hesse  
Edward Bloor  
Will Hobbs  
Norma Fox Mazer  
Louis Sachar  
Paul Fleischman  
Walter Dean Myers  
Laurie Halse Anderson  
Avi  
Karen Cushman  
Peter Dickinson  
M.E. Kerr  
Katherine Paterson  
Sarah Dessen  
Joyce Carol Oates  
Madeleine L'Engle  
Anne McCaffrey  
Robert Lipsyte  
Sharon Creech  
Paula Danziger  
Jean Craighead George  
Margaret Peterson Haddix  
Carl Hiaasen  
Lurlene McDaniel

## Reading Log

Date	Pages	Summary	Reaction

Word	Page #	The sentence	Dictionary definition	ORIGINAL sentence