

Self-Selected Reading Second Nine Weeks [8th Honors/Advanced]

**Due on Tuesday,
December 15**



**This counts as a
summative
assessment for this
nine weeks.**

Upon completing your chosen independent novel, you will:

1. Complete two of the reader's double entry journals [a total of 10 passages with responses].
2. Write a well-developed essay response. There are several purposes to this essay: to give you an opportunity to make a range of personal and intellectual connections between the books you read, to determine that you read them, and to assess how well you actually understood what you read by having you communicate that understanding to me. The essay should be at least **500 words** in length.

NOTE: Be sure to include the author and title of your chosen novel within the essay.

1. **“You cannot open a book without learning something”—Irish proverb**
 - Using the Irish proverb, write an essay about what you learned—about yourself, about others, about the world, or about something else—in the course of reading your book.
2. **“There are three rules for writing a good book. Unfortunately no one knows what they are”—W. Somerset Maugham**
 - Using your book as the basis for an essay, come up with the “rules for a good book.” In your essay you should use examples from the book you read to illustrate your points; thus, if you say that “a good book must be exciting,” you should draw examples from the novel you read to show what you mean and **how** it makes it a good book.
3. **“We read to know we’re not alone”—C.S. Lewis**
 - Explain what you think Lewis means, taking examples from your book to illustrate your thoughts and why you feel this way. Consider this: the man in solitary confinement for murder finds, reads, and relishes Shakespeare’s 29th sonnet, “When in disgrace with man’s eyes, I trouble deaf heaven...”, because the jilted lover feels the same way as the man in prison. As the Roman slave Terrance said a couple thousand years ago, “Because I am a man nothing is alien to me.”
4. **“The worth of a book is to be measured by what you can carry away from it”—James Bryce**
 - What have you carried away from your independent novel? Use examples from the novel to show whatever it was that you are left with after having completed your journey through the book; be sure to comment on your assessment of the worth of the book.
5. **“No man is an island, entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main”—John Donne**
 - Explain what this quote means in relation to the independent novel you have chosen. Use examples from the book to illustrate how Donne’s words apply to both the novel and your reactions to it.
6. **“Every book teaches a lesson, even if the lesson is only that one has chosen the wrong book”—Unknown**
 - What is the lesson which your independent novel teaches? Be sure to explain and elaborate using examples from the book and your own opinions/reactions to it.