

Grade 8 English: Independent Novel Study #1 (Fiction)

Objective:

- To engage independently with a fictional novel of your choice, develop critical thinking skills, and demonstrate comprehension and analysis through a variety of creative and written responses as well as an individual presentation.

Requirements: (Novel Selection & Approval)

- Choose a fictional novel that:
- Is appropriate for your reading level
- A Novel you have not read before
- One that is at least 150 pages in length
- **Deadline for Teacher Approval:** Monday, September 22nd, 2025

Part 1: Novel Information (Included in the presentation)

- Fill in the following:

Title: _____

Author: _____

Genre: _____

Pages: _____

Date Started: _____

Date Finished: _____

Part 2: Reading Journal (5 entries - ALL to be submitted & included in the presentation)

- As you read your novel, complete **5 journal entries** (one per major section of the book). For each entry you **must** include the following:

- **A summary of the section (3–5 sentences)**
- **A personal Reaction (2–3 sentences)**
- **Identify and Analyze Literary Devices or Author’s Craft (e.g., symbolism, tone, foreshadowing, metaphor)**
- **Highlight a Quote & Response:** Include a quote that stood out and write a brief response.

Tip: Space them out across the novel (beginning, rising action, climax, falling action, resolution).

Part 3: Literary Analysis (Included in presentation)

- Complete **ALL** of the prompts below and answer each in well-developed and complete sentences/explanations.
1. **Character Analysis:** Choose one major character. Describe their personality, motivations, and how they change over the course of the novel.
 2. **Theme Exploration:** Identify a central theme. Explain how the author develops this theme through plot, characters, and setting.
 3. **Conflict & Resolution:** What is the main conflict in the novel? How is it resolved?
 4. **Setting & Mood:** How does the setting influence the mood and events in the story?
 5. **Point of View & Impact:** What is the point of view (e.g., first-person, third-person)? How does it influence your understanding of the characters or plot?

Part 4: Key Elements/Aspects of your Novel (Included in the presentation)

Complete **ALL** of the prompts below and answer each in well-developed and complete sentences/explanations.

- **Brief summary of the Plot:** This should provide a concise overview of the main events in the novel. Focus on the key plot points without revealing too many spoilers.
- **Pro Tip:** Complete this section last to ensure you include all relevant information from the study.
- Identify and explain any symbols or recurring motifs in the novel. This could include objects, colors, animals, or repeated phrases that hold deeper meaning.
- **Key Event 1:** Describe a significant event in the novel and explain how it drives the plot forward.
- **Key Event 2:** Identify another turning point in the story and discuss its significance to the main character's journey.
- **Strengths:** What are the strengths of the novel? Consider elements like writing style, character depth, plot development, or thematic exploration.
- **Weaknesses:** What are the weaknesses of the novel? Is there any aspect (plot hole, underdeveloped character) that detracts from the story?
- **Author's Purpose:** What do you think the author's message or purpose is in writing this novel? How well do they convey this to the reader?

Part 5: Creative Project (Presented to the class)

- After you've completed reading your novel, you will compile **parts 1, 2, 3, and 4** into some type of presentation (Google Slides, Video, etc.) that you will share with your classmates.

Part 6: Final Reflection (1 page minimum - to be submitted ONLY)

Write a **reflection**: 1 well-developed page (or 2 max) on your experience reading this novel. Consider:

- Did you enjoy the book? Why or why not?
- What did you learn from the story?
- Would you recommend it to others?