**Alternatives to Book Reports!**

You have been participating in sustained, daily, silent reading for a while now in English class. You had free choice when deciding what to read; as we discussed in class, reading a variety of sources, non-fiction and fiction, has been shown to benefit us in a wide array of areas, from academic scores, to mental health, to increased memory.

For your assignment, you will choose a number of activities from the following list that add up to **at least 40 points.** It is entirely up to you which ones you choose. You are demonstrating to me as your teacher, but also to the greater world, your level of understanding of the material: be sure to include a lot of details! Be creative, make it enjoyable and meaningful to you, and show care and attention to detail, all of which will count towards your mark.

You will hand in a collection of activities to demonstrate your engagement. Begin when you have finished reading your first book.

1. **Create four Character Trading Cards: 12 points** (like Artist Trading Cards, or Hockey/baseball cards) Each card should have 1. A picture of the character 2. A description of the character 3. Insights about the character 4. On key quote from the character.
2. **Make a postcard: 8 points** from one character to another. Be sure the image (front) and the letter (back) show an understanding of the novel and the characters.
3. **Create two pages of a scrapbook: 10 points** belonging to a character from your book. You can use images that you draw or clip from a magazine and include small objects or mementos that would be important to the characterize. A feather, a candy wrapper, a toy.
4. **Create a comic strip: 8 points** of a key scene of a series of events from the novel. Include dialogue that you have written, or pull quotes from the novel.
5. **Write a letter to the author: 8 points** (mail it even if they are still alive!) Tell them what you think of the book, describing your reaction to characters and different aspects of the plot. Describe how it connects to your life, or what other things it made you think about. Ask the author questions. Explain how the books connects to the real world.
6. **Make a map of the world: 8 points** As it for the characters in the novel. Put lots of information, such as drawings, to give it a lot of life.
7. **Surprise! You are Oprah! 10 points** You are able to bring one of the novel’s characters onto your show. Write 8-10 fabulous interview questions that your viewers would be desperate to know, and then write the answers your characters would give. **Double points** if you record it as a video and show the class! It’s also possible to interview more than one character.
8. **In the News! 10 points** Create the front page of a newspaper that tells about the events and characters in the novel. Include weather reports, an editorial or editorial cartoon, ads. The title should be appropriate to the book.
9. **Dear Diary: 8 points** Create a diary or journal and write at least four entries that might have been written by one of the characters in the book you just read. The entries should prove your knowledge of the book.
10. **Cast the Movie: 10 points** You have been hired by a Hollywood producer to find suitable actors for all the major characters in the novel (a minimum of 8). Think of all the famous actors you know. Carefully choose actors to play each character. Write your suggestions up as a character list. Beside each character, put the name of the actor who will play that role and your reasons for choosing them. Show your knowledge of the character and plot in your writing.
11. **Movie Poster: 8 points** Design an eye catching poster for the book. Cast the major character in the book with real actors. Include a scene or dialogue from the book in the layout of your poster. Remember: it should be *persuasive.* Your job is to make people want to see this film!
12. **Non-fiction Report: 12 points** Select an important element of your novel and research it’s qualities and context in real life. Write a one page report that shares information about the topic. Be sure to include your sources.
13. **Build a scene or a prop: 12 points** Use what you can to create an important prop for the movie or play version of your novel. Be ambitious and have fun! Want to make a Tardis? Diagon Alley?
14. **Write a new ending for the story: 8 points** Write a new ending for the story, or add an extra chapter. This is especially good if your hated the ending! Remember: you have to use the same style of writing and the ending has to make sense to the rest of the story.
15. **Map out the journey of a character: 10 points** If your character has gone on a journey or odyssey of some sort, visually represent this journey.
16. **Do a report on the author: 8 points** Talk about his/her life, what other books they have written, their writing process, etc.
17. **Gather a collection of 4-5 current events: 8 points** These should reflect incidents that closely parallel those in your novel. Write a paragraph on why you chose these articles and how they link to the novel.
18. **Create a debate between two characters on an issue: 10 points** Write out the script. Remember to stay true to the characters that the author created! **Double marks:** record it and show it to the class!
19. **Opinion piece: 8 points** Select an event in the story that characters have different views on and then write up **two or three characters’ opinions on the same event.**
20. **Suggest your own idea: points?** Have a special talent?Talk to me! I had a student bring his guitar into class and perform three different blues styles that represented the music of the era his novel took place in.