**Novel Book Report: Oral & Written**

**Due March 31**

**Oral Report (65 points)**

**Required for your report:**

**PRESENTATION INFORMATION**

Book title

Author

List main characters and describe them

Give a detailed summary of what happens in the story

What was your favorite part of the book and why?

Provide a visual aid

Time limit of 3 to 5 minutes

**The following is a list of book report ideas from which to choose. Please follow the directions given. A rubric and guidelines for giving a good presentation are included.**

**For all of the choices below, a 3-5 minute oral report must accompany your project. In addition to the oral report, you will turn in the filled-out written report handed found at the end of this handout. The oral report is worth 65 points and the written report is worth 35 to equal 100 points for the entire project, so please follow directions carefully!**

**1. Poetry.** Write three poems

in response to the novel. The poems

can be about the characters, where

the book took place, or the themes

in the book.

**2. Word collage.** Write the

title of the book in the center of a

sheet of paper. Then look through

magazines for words, phrases, and

sentences that illustrate or tell something

about your book. As you look,

think in terms of the theme, setting,

plot line, as well as characters. Work

to get fifty such words, phrases, or

sentences so the whole sheet of

paper will be covered. The visual impact

of the collage should tell a potential

reader a lot about the book.

**3. Create a home page.** Select

several characters and design a

home page for each of them, picking

out appropriate backgrounds and

pictures and then creating information

that would tell a viewer about

your character. Also, create links to

at least five different sites that you

think your character would be interested

in. Then write up and post on

the page an explanation of how you

made the decisions you did and

what you believe this tells us about

the character.

**4. Scrap book.** Think about

all the kinds of mementos you

would put in a scrap book if you

had one. Then create a scrap book

for your character, cutting out pictures

from magazines or drawing

the mementos he or she would have

in a scrap book. Think about Valentine

in *The Count of Monte Cristo.* She would probably

have something in her scrapbook to

represent her family, her love of

her grandfather, Max, his experiences with the count, and so on.

**5. Advertisements.** To show

your understanding of a character,

go through several magazines and

newspapers looking for advertisements

of goods you think your character

would like. Cut out the pictures,

mount them on a poster

board, and under each picture write

a few lines about why this product

would appeal to your character.

**6. A pamphlet.** Think of an

issue that was very important to your

character. Then create a pamphlet

aimed at persuading others of the

importance of the issue. Include factual

information, testimonials, pictures

or graphics, etc.

**7. Draw a scene.** If you are

artistic, think of an important scene

and draw it the way you see it. Place

the characters in the scene too and

then figure out where you were in

relation to the characters when you

read the book. Then write or tape

your explanations of why you drew

the scene the way you did and why

you think you were where you were

in the scene. What does it tell you

about who you related to in the

novel?

**8. Group Drama.** If you are reading the same book as one or more others are reading, dramatize a scene from the book. Write a script and have several rehearsals before presenting it to the class.

**9. Prepare an oral report** of 5 minutes. Give a brief summary of the plot and describe the personality of one of the main characters. Be prepared for questions from the class.

**10. Sales Talk.** Give a sales talk, pretending the students in the class are clerks in a bookstore and you want them to push this book.

**11. Build a miniature stage** setting of a scene in the book. Include a written explanation of the scene.

**12. Sketches**. Make several sketches of some of the scenes in the book and label them.

**13. Group.** Read the same book as one of your friends. The two of you make a video or do a live performance of MASTERPIECE BOOK REVIEW, a program which reviews books and interviews authors. (You can even have audience participation!)

**14. Travel Brochure**. If the story of your book takes place in another country, prepare a travel brochure using pictures you have found or drawn.

**15. Posters**. Make three posters about the book using two or more of the following media: paint, crayons, chalk, paper, ink, real materials. Be a TV or radio reporter, and give a report of a scene from the book as if it is happening "live"

**16. Do a book talk.** Talk to the class about your book by saying a little about the author, explain who the characters are and explain enough about the beginning of the story so that everyone will understand what they are about to read. Finally, read an exciting, interesting, or amusing passage from your book. Stop reading at a moment that leaves the audience hanging and add "If you want to know more you’ll have to read the book." If the book talk is well done almost all the students want to read the book.

**17. Bring in a food** from the book to share with the class.

**Basics of a Good Presentation**

A good oral presentation should include the following:

**1. Planning.** Start with the So What? Just what is the point you want to make? It's said that listeners to a presentation can process and remember only about 20% of what is said. (You can raise this number with appropriate graphics, summarizing, repetition, and audience participation.) So plan the main point you want to make and focus your presentation around it.

**2. Preparation, Structure.** To avoid a rambling, stream-of-consciousness talk that goes nowhere, take the time and effort to follow the plan for your presentation, put it into an orderly shape, and learn it well enough that it can be delivered effectively. A good way to understand why preparing adequately is important is to think about what makes a terrible presentation:

* reading the whole thing from a script, or worse, rambling off the top of the head
* mumbling through
* saying "um" a lot
* speaking too fast
* speaking without pauses
* looking down, not making eye contact
* standing in one place, holding the lectern with a death grip
* never gesturing or looking alive
* gesturing as if you're doing tai chi while you talk

If you think about it, you will see that these errors are all caused by a lack of planning, preparation, and structure. Planning your talk, rehearsing it to become familiar with it, practicing your enunciation and volume, organizing until the presentation is clear and logically structured--these steps will help prevent the terribles from occurring.

**3. Communication.** To communicate well, be sure that you

* speak loudly and clearly
* pause between ideas and do not speak overly fast (or too slow)
* make eye contact with the audience
* use your time well
* use visual aids
* gesture and move around some



**Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Novel Written Report (35 points)**

March 31, 2014

**Short Answer**

1. What book did you read?
2. Who is the author of your book?
3. Did you read the entire novel without skimming? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 If not, how much did you read? \_\_\_\_\_\_ out of \_\_\_\_\_\_ pages

1. Did you use any outside helps (i.e. internet, books, people)?

**Longer Answer (2-3 well-developed sentences)**

1. Who or what is the protagonist? And why?

1. Who or what is the antagonist? And why?

1. Which of the characters did you enjoy the most? Why?

8. In your opinion, what were some of the strengths and weaknesses of this novel?

 Is there anything you would have changed? If so, what? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
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**Longest Answer (4-6 well-developed sentences)**

9. Identify the main conflict. What type of conflict is it (man vs. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_)? Explain.

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10. Give a concise, precise plot summary.