

AERP Book Response Packet

Your Name: _____ Class: _____

Title of AERP Book: _____

Author of AERP Book: _____

Year Published: _____ Fiction or Nonfiction: _____

Number of Pages: _____ Date Completed: _____

When (be as accurate as possible; not all books are clear about this) does this book take place? If it takes place over a long period of time, indicate the approximate range of years or eras.

Where does this book take place? Again, if it takes place in multiple locations, list them or indicate the general region.

Describe this book in one “sales pitch” sentence (ex: “A young woman must prove her value as a U.S. Marine to her male peers during the First Gulf War.”)

Author Information

Instructions: Use the internet and/or print sources to research your author. If there is more than one author, focus on the first person listed. If you can't find any information about your author, see Mrs. Baker for assistance. Hint: try Googling your author's name – all in quotation marks – and the title – again, in quotation marks – together to maximize relevant hits. Try the Google Directory of Authors (<http://www.google.com/Top/Arts/Literature/Children%27s/Authors>), Authors & Illustrators on the Web (<http://www.djUSD.k12.ca.us/harper/jboston/AuthorsandIllustratorsontheWeb.htm>), and Scholastic Author Studies (<http://www.scholastic.com/librarians/ab/biolist.htm>).

You likely will not be able to find answers to every question. Do the best you can with what is available.

Author Name: _____

Year Born: _____ Place Born: _____

Where does/did your author live?

Year Died, if Dead: _____ Cause of Death, if Stated: _____

Significant Family Members and/or Noteworthy Friends:

Author's Website, if applicable: _____
(looking for a site that the author or his/her estate runs – not a website ABOUT the author)

Titles of other books or important works, if applicable:

Awards and Honors:

Interesting notes or highlights from the author's personal life:

What is the intersection between this author's personal life and his/her writing? That is, how has his/her life affected what or how your author writes?

Your Thoughts

Why did you choose this book for AERP?

As you read, what confused or intrigued you? What made you ponder (that is, go “hmmmm”)?

What did you learn from this book, and/or come to think of in a different way?

In honesty, what did you think of this book? Why do you feel the way you do?

Would you want to read another book by this author? Why or why not?

To whom (specific people, or generic types/groups) would you recommend this book?

Give three reasons why someone else might want to read this book.

Give three reasons why someone might NOT want to read this book.

Give this book a rating, as if it were a movie (G, PG, PG-13, R... hopefully not NC-17!) and explain why it earned that rating from you.

How many stars, out of a possible 5, do you give this book? Why?

What Does This Book Say About America?

NOTE: This is the heart of this packet. Don't slack off on this part!

After having read this book, what do you think it tells the reader about America... Americans... the American Dream? Is the author optimistic or pessimistic? What impression does the author give of life in America? How is American life, as portrayed in this book, different or the same from the American life that you are experiencing? What does the author teach the reader about "this American life"?

You may respond in a personal informal essay format or in another written format (poetry, etc.). You may also respond via a digital artifact (website, movie, infographic, etc.). Be thoughtful and thorough – and don't be afraid to take a risk, be controversial, or express doubt. It's okay if you disagree with the author, and it's okay to say so – just don't make this "all about you." Use additional paper as needed.

Book Responses

Instructions: The final pages of this packet include five different book response sheets. Some are illustrative (art-based), others are more writing/journal-oriented. Some may be completed digitally. Make sure to read the requirements for each book response before choosing; don't judge whether you'd like to do a specific book response solely on its title!

You will choose and complete ONE of the book response projects.

Save paper and ink: only print off and turn in those pages that you actually fill out.

Book Response Options

Character Cinquains and BME Illustration

Mapping a Story

Research Mini-Project

Storyboarding

Theatrical Adaptation

Character Cinquains & BME Illustrations

Note: This book response goes on to the next page. Don't forget to do the BME part!

A cinquain is a five-line poem that describes something. The poem does not rhyme. Each line has a specific structure, as follows:

- Line 1: 1 word that names the subject of the poem
- Line 2: 2 adjectives that describe the subject of the poem
- Line 3: 3 action verbs that the subject does or that describe the subject
- Line 4: 4 words that form a complete thought about the subject
- Line 5: 1 word that is a synonym of line 1, or that otherwise sums up the poem

Example:

triangles
pointy, geometric
revolving, rotating, angling
triangles have three sides
180°

Write 2 cinquains, one each for two different characters in your book. Either the first or last line of each cinquain should be that character's name.

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Explain how your poems describe these characters. In other words, why did you choose the words/phrases that you used for these poems? Continue on an additional piece of paper as needed.

In the boxes below, or on your own paper, create an illustration of the beginning of your book, the middle of your book, and the book's ending. Please use color or extensive black-and-white shading.

Beginning of Story

Middle of Story

End of Story

Mapping a Story

On this sheet or your own paper, draw a map of the important places from your book. If nonfiction, draw from actual maps; if fiction, pull from as many details as you can glean from the text, and fill in the gaps as reasonably as you can. Include a compass and a legend; use color to clarify your map. Make sure to label the important places. Attention should be paid to neatness, legibility, and accuracy. You may use electronic artistic tools so long as the finished product is your own work.

Research Mini-Project

Pick an interesting object, place, activity, or person from your book – something that was a part of your book, but not its central focus. Learn more about it through research, using online, print, and/or first-person (i.e., interviews, surveys, etc.) sources. You should use a minimum of three sources, none of which should be Wikipedia, and not including your AERP book. Make sure that you include a Works Cited that follows MLA format – use Citation Machine or Purdue’s OWL for help.

Share what you have learned in one of the following ways:

- Short written paper (no longer than 3 pages typed)
- Infographic (Google examples before beginning)
- Website or other digital artifact
- Other – please check with Mrs. Baker first to make sure your idea will work

Storyboarding

Choose an important scene from your book. On this page or your own paper, make a graphic version of that scene – that is, draw it as if it were in a comic book or graphic novel. Use panels, speech bubbles, voiceover boxes, etc. to tell the story. Use color or shading to clarify your illustrations. Attention should be paid to accuracy of retelling, clarity of story, and artistic effort. You may use electronic artistic tools and images found online so long as the finished product is your own work.

Theatrical Adaptation

Choose an important scene from your book. Rewrite that scene as a script for a play or movie. Include stage directions to indicate action within your scene. Your script should be formatted correctly; I recommend that you take a look at formatting tips at the “How to Format a Stage Play” website at http://ywp.scriptfrenzy.org/playwriting_format. Choose a good ending point that doesn’t make it appear that you just ran out of time – make sure that there is a sense of “conclusion” even if the story hasn’t ended at the end of your scene. This script should be no shorter than two pages typed.