INDEPENDENT READING PROGRAM

The Independent Reading Program is designed to make your reading experience in this class as enjoyable as possible. Ya right, you say – that’s impossible! No, it’s not. Anything is enjoyable when YOU are in control, and YOU get to make as many personal choices as possible. This is your “baby”—YOU have control over WHAT you read, WHEN you read it, and what kind of GRADE you want to get.

Of course, the purpose behind the Independent Reading Program is to improve your reading skills by having you read a ton of good books. Research tells us that the number one way to improve anyone’s reading ability is to read and read and read and read (you get the point). The key is that you get to choose what type of books you read—author and subject are entirely up to you. I have found that once a student finds an author or type of book they like, they are hooked. So, above all else, take the time to find books you will love to read.

Other tidbits:

* You must physically show me the book you are reading so I can write down the author, title, and page numbers; otherwise I will not accept your book for a grade. You can sign up as many books at one time as you want. (You will not be able to sign up books of poetry, short stories, or nonfiction books – they are too hard to do booktalks on).
* Your grade will be based on the number of pages you read each six weeks. You will do booktalks to get credit for the pages you read. Booktalk due dates and the grading scale are attached but will also be posted in the classroom. (Pages DO NOT carry over from one six-week period to the next.)
* If you start a book and don’t like it, please junk it and find a new one. However, you MUST show me the new book before I will accept the book pages for a grade.
* Electronic devices for reading are allowed; however, this is a PRIVILEGE NOT A RIGHT. Any abuse (texting, games, etc.) will result in LOSS of this privilege.
* Booktalks are simple—you just talk about your book to me. However, you must demonstrate that you read and understood your book. You must bring the book with you when you do the booktalk, as well. The booktalk is a TEST—show that you know what you read. Please keep in mind that you can only do one book per booktalk and only one booktalk per week –so plan ahead.
* You must bring your signed up reading book to class everyday (no book = decrease of weekly work ethic grade) as I will give you in-class reading time every period.
* If I discover during the booktalk that you didn’t read all the pages you are trying to get credit for, you will receive a zero for the Independent Reading Grade for the six weeks. Not only are you cheating by being dishonest about the number of pages you actually read, but also you are defeating the purpose of the program, which is to improve your reading skills. (You don’t have to do a booktalk over the ENTIRE book – you can do it over whatever pages you have read.)

Please realize I’m trusting you to read new books that you have NEVER read before; please return that trust with honest choices – you will NOT get credit for pages read from a book you have read before.

SIX-WEEK INDEPENDENT READING PAGES SCALE

A+ = 476-500 pages

A = 451-475 pages

A- = 426-450 pages

B+ = 391-425 pages

B = 361-390 pages

B- = 331-360 pages

C+ = 301-330 pages

C = 271-300 pages

C- = 241-270 pages

D+ = 211-240 pages

D = 181-210 pages

D- = 150-180 pages

Partial Credit = >149 pages