

The 4th Grade Passport Project



All You Need to Know:

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- Grades and Rewards
- Weekly Reading Homework Information
 - Common Themes Handout
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DUE DATES:

All Passport Projects must be ready to present by the following *tentative* dates:

Project 1 – Week of November 16th

Project 2 – Week of January 25th

Project 3 – Week of March 22nd

Project 4- Week of May 24th

THE PROGRAM:

This program not only encourages deeper reading comprehension, but it exposes you to some really great books. More importantly, this project promotes life skills. You will learn about responsibility, time management, planning, perseverance, presentation strategies, and how to handle deadlines. This is not always easy for fourth graders, but it helps to take those steps to life-long learning and become independent thinkers.

BOOK CHOICE:

In 4th grade, we support the Viking program! This is a list of books compiled yearly from our librarians around Geneva. Each year, there are new and exciting books nominated for students to read. Your requirement is to choose any 4 books from one of the Viking lists. (See attached book list!) You will then choose a project to complete and present to the class!

*Note – If there is a specific book that you would like to read that is not on the list, please see me!

THE CONTENT:

Title & Author:

This is where you obviously mention somewhere within your project the title of your Viking book along with the author!

Setting:

The setting should tell when and where the story took place. If the story does not give you a specific time or place then you need to include a general place. Other things to mention include the time of year (ex. fall, spring, over a school year, from January to March, one day, etc.) If you can't tell the season or how long of a time frame your book is dealing with then you should reflect if the story took place in the past, the present, or the future.

Characters:

Describe the main character and any other supporting characters who are important to the story. This could include:

- age
- boy, girl, animal, or creature
- personality traits (helpful, mean, a bully, a great friend to all, outgoing, shy etc.)

Summary:

This is definitely the most challenging section. A summary retells the story in about five to seven sentences. Depending on the type of project you choose, the summary may be presented differently than sentence format. You need to include information about the beginning, middle, and end. Also, you should include the overall problem and the solution of the story.

Recommendation:

Would you recommend this book? Yes or no? Why? Be honest. You do not have to recommend every book. If you did not like the book and would not recommend it to a friend, that is fine and your grade will not be affected. This is your opinion, but you need to back it up either way.

Theme:

This is a chance for you to tell about the theme of the book. Reflect on the overall message of the book. (See attached "Common Themes in Literature" handout to assist with this part!) You do not have to use these themes, as they are just suggestions!

Mechanics:

For any written content, I will look for good old-fashioned sentence mechanics! Do you have well-constructed sentences? I will check for spelling, sentence fluency, and note taking guides, capitalization, and punctuation. This component may vary a bit depending on the type of project you choose, but be sure to edit and review your work for errors regardless!

Presentation:

A good presentation to the class can showcase all you know about your book? Do you know your material? Have you practiced at home? I will be looking for good eye contact, a projected voice, and overall knowledge of your content.

Overall Effort:

This is pretty self-explanatory. How hard did you try on this project? Neatness, organization, and effort all comes into play here. Try your best and give your all!

Overall reminder: Use details from the book in all sections that would prove that you have read the book and that you understood what you read. Do not repeat the same detail or event over and over.

HOW IS THE PROJECT GRADED?

- Grades are based on the rubric
- A 75% is needed to earn credit
- Goal is to learn from previous reports

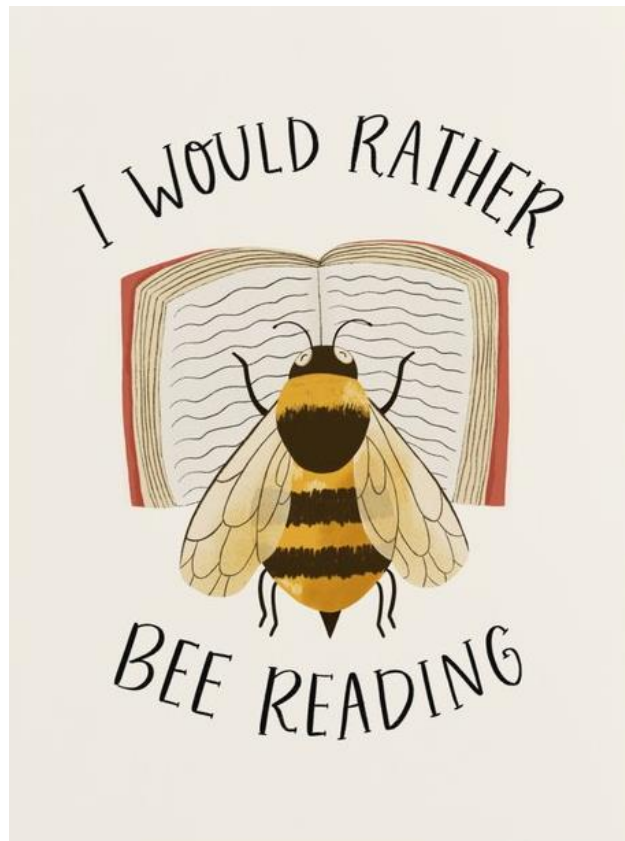
REWARDS:

- 1 ticket to Six Flags Great America
- An overall experience to challenge your brain!

WEEKLY READING HOMEWORK:

Weekly Reading Homework Worksheets are required! This is a way of taking notes while reading. I encourage you to stop and think about what you are reading every 3-5 chapters. The weekly reading homework sheets help you to think deeply about what is happening in the book. We read to understand, not just to get to the end of the book. There are read and respond strategies that will help guide you in your thinking. These include summary, prediction, question, connection, and make a visual image.

Think of the Weekly Reading Homework Sheet as a training tool for the brain. Readers should stop and think about the plot, setting, time frame, how characters change, the rise and fall of action, the tone, mood, theme, symbols, and point of view. We are training brains to ask questions, make predictions and connections, as well as, wonder about the author's purpose.



Name: _____ #: _____

Common Themes

found in literature

Love Literature with characters who show love to one another.	Friendship Literature with characters who develop trust and loyalty with one another.	Courage Literature with characters who take risks and show bravery to overcome a problem.	Hope Literature with characters who believe in a better world.
Fairness Literature with characters who treat or learn to treat one another in a fair way.	Kindness Literature with characters who are friendly and generous to others.	Acceptance Literature with characters who learn to accept and respect the others and their differences.	Greed Literature with characters who want more of something.
Responsibility Literature with characters who follow through with things they are supposed to do.	Jealousy Literature with characters who want things that others have.	Revenge Literature with characters who try to get back at someone.	Bravery Literature with characters who have strength and courage to overcome a fear or take a risk.
Survival Literature with characters who are faced with life or death situations and fight to survive.	Peace Literature with characters who work for freedom from disagreements.	Cooperation Literature with characters who work together to solve a problem or achieve a goal.	Compassion Literature with characters who understand how others are feeling and to make it better.
Honesty Literature with characters who feel it is best to tell the truth all of the time.	Loyalty Literature with characters who trust each other and never turn their backs on their friends.	Perseverance Literature with characters that never give up.	Sportsmanship Literature with characters who follow the rules of games and play fair.

Project Menu:

<p>Diary Entry – Use the voice of a chosen character. Using all elements from the rubric express the character's thoughts, feelings, and ideas.</p>	<p>Book Jacket – Create a book jacket for the book you read. Make sure it looks different from the actual book jacket. Include all rubric requirements.</p>	<p>Power Point – Using your technology skills create a presentation using the elements from the rubric with vivid images and appropriate transitions.</p>	<p>Magazine Interview – Create a 15 questions Q and A between a reporter and a character in the story. The answers should show what you know about the character in the story, along with required elements.</p>
<p>Movie Poster – What would your book look like if it were a movie? Create a movie poster to represent that. Include critics' reviews and all required rubric parts.</p>	<p>Cereal Box Display – Create a new cereal brand based on your book. The front box should have the name of your new cereal and a creative drawing. Cover the entire box using elements from the rubric.</p>	<p>Formal Book Report – Using a traditional Passport form, fill out the required elements using sentences, captions, and pictures. See teacher for information on acquiring these forms.</p>	<p>Comic Strip – Create a 5-picture comic strip showing 5 major events from the book in sequence. Include captions and dialogue bubbles to retell the story along with pictures and rubric requirements.</p>
<p>TV Commercial – Using video, create a television commercial to advertise your book. Include rubric requirements.</p>	<p>Book Trailer – Using a digital media tool, create a book trailer to encourage other students to read your book. Use appropriate visuals and voice-overs to add to the presentation. Include rubric requirements.</p>	<p>Poem/Song – Create a poem or a song that summarizes the story and touches on all the rubric elements as well.</p>	<p>Your Own Ideal – See your teacher for this one!</p>

Passport Project Rubric

Name: _____

Title of Book: _____

Project # _____ Project Description _____

Title & Author	0	---	---	---	4	5
Setting	0	1	2	3	4	5
Characters	0	1	2	3	4	5
Summary	0	1	2	3	4	5
Recommendation	0	1	2	3	4	5
Theme	0	1	2	3	4	5
Mechanics	0	1	2	3	4	5
Presentation	0	1	2	3	4	5
Overall Effort	0	1	2	3	4	5
					TOTAL POINTS	_____/45

SAMPLE

Comments:
