

Sustained Silent Reading (SSR) and Book Talks Lindzey – English II

Studies have shown that reading on a regular basis not only broadens readers' knowledge, but also improves vocabulary and enhances writing skills. Because I want you to reap those same benefits and to know the rewards of reading, I am having you read 300 pages of outside reading each nine weeks. (That's roughly 33 pages a week, or less than 5 pages a day.) You will be responsible for discussing your books with me in order to get your reading test score each nine weeks.

Requirements

1. On SSR days, which are usually every Friday unless we have a shortened week, you must bring to class and read an SSR book of your choosing. (See #3 below.)
2. You will read and orally discuss with me **at least 300 pages of SSR/outside reading per nine weeks** as part of your English class.
3. Readings must be in book form, not magazines, newspapers, brochures, etc. You are free to choose fiction and nonfiction books you want to read EXCEPT joke books, comic-book-format books, encyclopedias, textbooks, reference books, poetry books, anthologies (collections of novellas, short stories, essays, or other literary pieces), etc. You may read a book in another language, but you must bring me a copy of the book in English when you come to do your book talk. **If there is any question as to whether or not a book is acceptable to use for your book talk, check with me before reading it.**
4. If you don't read the entire book, you will be given credit for the number of pages you did read.
5. You must have your book in your possession when you discuss it with me. These discussions may be done before school during tutorials or during class on SSR days. Because you know that you have numerous opportunities to do this assignment, there will be **no excuses for not having it done by the end of the eighth week of each nine weeks grading period. If you are absent (excused) that final day and have not done your book talk, you must call my school voice mail or email me to let me know when I can call you at home that day to do the book talk over the phone. You must then bring the book to me the next school day.**
6. There is nothing you can do to prepare for the book talk except read the book! Knowing a plot summary will not help you because I will initiate all the conversation about the book, and you don't know what I'm going to ask you.
7. I can usually do 8-9 book talks during a class period, so there obviously will not be enough time for all students to do their book talks on the last possible day each nine weeks. For that reason, you should meet with me as soon as you have finished your reading for the nine weeks or at least completed a major portion of it.
8. **The SSR book talk will count as a test grade each nine weeks.**

(Read additional important information on the back of this sheet.)

Other Specifics

- A. Excess pages read (over and above the required number of pages) will be carried over to the next grading period.
- B. Reading may be from more than one book if necessary to accumulate the required number of pages each grading period. **Bring me only one book at a time, however, instead of coming to me with two or three books at once.**
- C. You may not report on any books listed in the DSHS English curriculum (a list is on the front board) or books you have read for SSR in previous English classes. (We English teachers have lists of your previous DSHS reading.)
- D. Outside reading for another class (history, psychology, science, etc.) is acceptable for the book talk as long as the material does not fall into one of the “exception” categories (see #3).
- E. If you hate a book after 25-30 pages, you should present the book to me, report on those 25-30 pages to get credit for them, and then go on to another book. Don't continue to read an SSR book that you don't like!
- F. Your reading report will count as a **test grade (1x)** each nine weeks and will be determined by figuring the percentage of required pages completed during the nine weeks. For example, reading and getting credit for 300 or more pages would result in a reading test grade of 100% for the grading period, 275 pages = 92%, 250 pages = 83%, 225 pages = 75%, 200 pages = 67%, 175 pages = 58%, 150 pages = 50%, etc.
- G. In addition to the SSR test grade each nine weeks, you will receive a **daily grade** on each SSR day. The daily grade will be based on whether or not you bring an appropriate book to class that day and read during the entire class period. If you do that, you will receive a daily grade of **100**. If you do not bring a book to class on an SSR day, you will not receive a passing grade for that day. In that case, you will have two choices: (1) borrow a book from me and read it during class for a daily grade of **50**, or (2) study for a test in another class, write your grandmother a letter, etc., for a daily grade of **0**. Sleeping is *never* an option! Disruptions of any sort during SSR will result in 10 point deductions from the daily grade.

You may check out books from my own collection on any day **except** an SSR day. On SSR days, you are responsible for bringing outside reading books with you to class. In other words, check out books from me on any day but Fridays!

If you are absent on a regular SSR reading day, your grade for the day will depend on what kind of absence you have: excused absence = no grade, which neither hurts nor helps you; truancy = 0.
- H. Even after you have completed your book talk for a nine weeks period or for the entire year, you must still bring an appropriate book to class and read on SSR days in order to get your daily for that day.